



ONE COURT OF JUSTICE

MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT

2002 ANNUAL REPORT

A MESSAGE FROM

Chief Justice Maura D. Corrigan

The year 2002 will be remembered as a time of enormous change, as our nation struggled to deal with the post-September 11 world. In a positive way, 2002 was also the year for profound and far-reaching changes to Michigan's judicial branch. Most of these changes received little or no fanfare; the everyday work of the justice system, while essential to ordered liberty, is usually not very dramatic and does not make for headlines.

Highlights of this report include trial court reform, efforts to protect children, the creation of a statewide judicial computer network, the historic opening of the Michigan Hall of Justice and the Hall of Justice Learning Center, expansion of state therapeutic courts, and improvements to the courts' web presence. Whatever the program, the goal is the same: to pursue the ends of justice and serve Michigan citizens.

I invite you to read this report, which also includes statistics about our state courts' activities and caseloads. Detailed information is available at courts.michigan.gov/scao/resources/publications/caseload.htm. We hope that this information will spur discussions about the issues facing Michigan children and their families.



MAURA D. CORRIGAN

Chief Justice, Michigan Supreme Court

April 30, 2003

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MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT ANNUAL REPORT 2002

2002 HIGHLIGHTS

TRIAL COURT REFORM

Introduction

On March 7, 2002, the Michigan Supreme Court wrote to Governor John Engler, Senate Majority Leader Dan DeGrow, and Speaker of the House Rick Johnson. The Court's letter recommended that the Legislature permit trial court consolidation on a "local option" basis. The letter also urged the Legislature to address with "some urgency" the practice of cross-assigning probate judges to the family division of circuit court.

In December 2002, the Legislature passed, and the Governor signed, two bills, Public Act (PA) 682, which concerns family courts, and PA 678, which addresses the Court's "local option" recommendation.

Family court

Family courts are a relatively recent phenomenon in Michigan. In 1996, the Legislature passed PA 388, creating the family division of circuit court. Previously, families going through divorce could find themselves before both circuit and probate courts; circuit courts had exclusive jurisdiction over divorce, but children's issues often required the family to appear in probate court. The family division helped ensure that issues affecting the same family could be resolved in one court, and ideally by the same judge. To implement the family division, the Supreme Court issued orders of cross-assignment so that probate judges could also preside in divorces and other matters that were formerly heard only by circuit judges.

Cross-assignments were not desirable, however, from either a jurisdictional or practical standpoint. In its March 7, 2002 letter, the Supreme Court stated that "the indefinite cross-assignment of Probate judges into the Family Division should not be a permanent solution and ... this issue must be addressed with some urgency by the Legislature."

PA 682 provides that probate judges who are identified in a family court plan have the same power and authority as circuit judges to hear family division cases. The act requires each circuit court to establish a family court plan for that circuit by July 1, 2003. The duration of a judge's family division service will be determined by the chief circuit judge. Probate judges serving in the family division must be specifically identified in the family court plan.

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TRIAL COURT REFORM (continued)

Concurrent jurisdiction

In its March 7, 2002 letter, the Supreme Court also recommended a “local option” for trial court consolidation. PA 678, which became effective April 1, 2003, makes the “local option” available by allowing trial courts to adopt a plan of concurrent jurisdiction within a county or judicial circuit.

Some background is helpful in understanding the potential impact of PA 678. In a 1906 address to the American Bar Association, legal scholar Roscoe Pound asserted that the American judicial system was archaic in three areas: (1) too many courts, (2) preservation of concurrent jurisdiction, and (3) waste of judicial resources, particularly in the distribution of judicial resources across jurisdictions. He called for one single general jurisdiction trial court, with one appellate court for each geographical area.

In Michigan, serious discussions about trial court reform began with the 1990 report of the Commission on Courts in the 21st Century. The commission was created by the Legislature to make recommendations about the future of Michigan’s justice system. The commission recommended setting up at least three “pilot projects” to study unified trial courts. In 1995, the Supreme Court, acting on recommendations of a strategic planning committee, authorized demonstration projects to study court consolidation. SCAO implemented seven Demonstration Project Courts (Barry, Berrien, Iron, Isabella, Lake, and Washtenaw Counties, and 46th Circuit, which includes Crawford, Kalkaska, and Otsego Counties). Each court consolidated circuit, probate and district courts into a single trial court. All demonstration project court judges have full authority to hear all cases within each court’s jurisdiction. In September 2001, a National Center for State Courts report concluded that “[a]ll of the consolidated courts are generally making more efficient use of judicial and quasi-judicial resources under the demonstration projects than the pre-consolidation courts.” The report also found that the project courts hastened the delivery of justice to families, reduced their net operating costs and improved management of court revenues, reduced the size and age of pending caseloads, and made effective use of technology.

In 2001, the Supreme Court initiated the next wave of project courts, known as the Next Generation Project. Thirty-two courts in 12 locations are involved in the project. Circuit, probate, and district courts are experimenting with consolidated court administration in Arenac, Cheboygan, Genesee, Kalamazoo, Marquette, Midland, Muskegon, Ogemaw, and Roscommon counties. In Eaton, Ingham, Oakland, and Livingston counties, only circuit and probate courts participate. A more detailed description of the project is available at:

courts.michigan.gov/scao/services/init.htm#next

The Michigan judiciary is not alone in its effort to improve service through greater coordination and consolidation. New Jersey consolidated its trial courts in 1947, and that trend continued throughout the 1970s. More recently, Illinois, Iowa, South Dakota, Minnesota, and California have successfully consolidated their trial courts.

For more information about court reorganization in Michigan, visit the Supreme Court's website at:

courts.michigan.gov/supremecourt/Press/Reorganization.htm

SUPPORTING AND PARENTING CHILDREN

Child support collections

Michigan's Friend of the Court (FOC) office is the agency responsible for enforcing child support, custody and parenting time. The federal Office of Child Support Enforcement, which reviewed all states' child support collections for the year 2001, reported that Michigan's child support collections totalled \$1,385,225,776. Only two states, California and Ohio, collected more child support than Michigan. Michigan ranked second in collections per full-time equivalent staff (FTE) with \$488,961 per FTE. Among states with collections greater than \$250,000, Michigan ranked first in collections per FTE.

In 2002, FIA's Office of Child Support and the Friends of the Court implemented a new process for matching parents who failed to pay support with their bank accounts. Thanks to the new initiative, over \$3,268,257.25 in child support was collected. The project also prompted payers to resolve support accounts. As a result, Michigan's child support arrearage was reduced by \$4,666,891.97.

Michigan Child Support Enforcement System

The Michigan Child Support Enforcement System (MiCSES 2.4) is the next generation of the computer system mandated by federal law in Michigan. A prototype version of the system was implemented in 2002 in Wayne County. By the end of fiscal year 2003, every county in the state must convert to the new system. MiCSES 2.4 contains processes necessary to track down and collect support from parents who have failed to make their child support payments. If the computer system is certified by federal authorities, Michigan will avoid over \$150 million in penalties and may recover \$39 million in penalties already paid.

Statutory changes

Several new child support and parenting time laws were enacted in 2002. The laws expand sanctions for parents who fail to appear for nonpayment of support hearings. Other revisions establish an

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SUPPORTING AND PARENTING CHILDREN (continued)

administrative process for improving efforts to collect support from parents' bank accounts when those parents fail to pay on their own. The new laws also set an administrative process for enforcing unpaid medical bills. In addition, courts now have the ability to impose sanctions against a parent who wrongfully interferes with the other parent's parenting time. The State Court Administrative Office created new forms and policies to help courts implement the new laws.

Other activities

The Court's State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) continued to manage a federal grant to fund programs at the county level to provide for supervised parenting time, safe exchange locations for domestic violence cases, and parenting time initiatives for children whose parents never married.

SCAO also undertook a major review of child support guidelines. As part of the review, the office conducted a web-based survey to gather input on child support guidelines from the public, attorneys, judges, and court staff. The guidelines will be revised in 2003 after public comments are received.

PROTECTING CHILDREN**Children absent without legal permission (AWOLP)**

Court-ordered or voluntary placements are one means of protecting children from abuse and neglect. In a number of cases, however, children are missing from their legal placements, raising grave concerns about their safety and well-being. In some cases, the children may have been abducted by a parent or other relative; other absent children may be runaways. In Michigan, in the fall of 2002, 232 children were absent from a placement without legal permission (AWOLP).

In fall 2002, the State Court Administrative Office participated in a work group with staff of the Michigan Family Independence Agency (FIA) and trial court judges. The work group developed a process for locating AWOLP children. The FIA modified policies, procedures, and computer supports to ensure that appropriate actions are taken whenever a child is reported as AWOLP. The Supreme Court required courts where children were initially reported as AWOLP to locate children using the judicial process in cooperation with FIA, and to report to the Supreme Court regularly regarding the children's status.

On November 19, 2002, the Supreme Court issued Administrative Order 2002-4. AO 2002-4 directed all Michigan circuit courts to develop a review plan for neglect and abuse cases where children were reported missing. The order requires courts to establish a special docket or expedited review process. The State Court Administrative Office provided guidelines to help courts develop their plans. Courts were required to submit their plans to the State Court Administrative Office by the February 1, 2003, deadline.

With the courts' efforts, 162 missing children were located. Some of the children were on the original list provided by the Family Independence Agency; other missing children were identified and accounted for after the original list was issued.

The Supreme Court, and all Michigan circuit courts, will continue to make finding missing children a top priority.

MICHIGAN HALL OF JUSTICE

Michigan Hall of Justice dedication

In May 1967, then-Chief Justice John Dethmers expressed his "hope that the long continued assurances from some quarters that one day this Court will be housed in a new court building may before long come true" "On October 8, 2002, that long-held dream of a permanent home for Michigan's judicial branch came true: the Michigan Hall of Justice officially opened with an historic dedication ceremony.

The day began with the first oral argument of the Michigan Supreme Court's 2002-2003 term. As has been the Court's custom since 1995, the Court held the hearing in its old chambers in the Capitol. The Court then temporarily recessed. Led by the Justices, a procession of over 130 state jurists assembled behind the Capitol and marched across the Capitol mall to the Hall of Justice. They were escorted by a color guard from the Michigan Army National Guard and members of the Glen Erin Pipe Band of Lansing. At the end of their route, seated in front of the Hall of Justice, waited an eager audience. In the audience were members of the Department of Management and Budget, which oversaw the construction of the Hall of Justice, in addition to representatives of the Christman Company, which constructed the building. Also present were members of Albert Kahn Associates and Spillis Candella and Partners, the architects on the project.

When the procession arrived, accompanied by music from the Grand Valley State University Symphonic Wind Ensemble, Chief Justice Maura D. Corrigan opened a special session of the Michigan Supreme Court to dedicate the Hall of Justice. The Most Reverend Kenneth L. Povish, retired Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Lansing, gave the invocation. A group of middle school students, winners of the State Bar of Michigan's annual Law Day Essay Contest, led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. As a pair of A-10 fighter planes flew in formation overhead, members of the Children's Choir of Royal Oak and the Cass Technical High School Concert Choir of Detroit sang the national anthem and "God Bless America." Speakers included Chief Justice Corrigan, Governor John Engler, Senator Harry Gast, Justice Michael F. Cavanagh, Lansing Mayor David C. Hollister, and State Bar President Reginald M. Turner, Jr. The benediction was delivered by Rabbi David A. Nelson of Congregation Beth Shalom in Oak Park.

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MICHIGAN HALL OF JUSTICE (continued)

Gov. Engler told the assembled Justices and judges, "It's good to have you home," underscoring the generations-long wait of Michigan's judiciary for a headquarters. Justice Cavanagh reminded the audience that the state's legal heritage includes the traditions of Michigan's Ottawa, Chippewa and Potawatomi Native American tribes. Indeed, the Supreme Court's new courtroom is round, echoing the form of the tribes' sentencing circles. In her remarks, Chief Justice Corrigan likened the Hall of Justice, which curves toward the state Capitol, to "arms outstretched, both shielding and embracing. What it says ... is that the judicial branch is a bulwark protecting, through faithful adherence to our Constitution and laws, the democratic process that goes on across the way at the Legislature."

The six-story Hall of Justice offers benefits to judicial branch and public alike: improved public services, greater efficiency, reduced expense. The building houses the Michigan Supreme Court, Michigan Court of Appeals, and related agencies (State Court Administrative Office, Michigan Judicial Institute, Supreme Court Commissioners, and Michigan Board of Law Examiners), which were previously housed in separate buildings. The first floor of the Hall of Justice includes a conference center, which will be used for continuing education by judges from across the state as well as court staff and others who work in the judicial branch.

MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT LEARNING CENTER

On November 1, 2002, the Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center opened to the public, thanks to the inspiration of former Chief Justice Elizabeth A. Weaver. The 3,900 square foot gallery, which is located on the first floor of the Michigan Hall of Justice, has already welcomed thousands of visitors. With the exception of Hawaii, no other state has a museum aimed at educating the public about the justice system. Michigan's Learning Center is unique in its wide array of exhibits, including a "Day in Court" that allows participants to play roles in a mock trial by computer. The center particularly stresses Michigan's court system and judicial branch history, but includes general information about constitutional law, the role of a jury, basic principles of law, and court procedures. Hands-on exhibits and computer interactives bring Michigan law to life, demonstrating its impact on Michigan citizens.

Approximately 12,000 visitors are expected to tour the Learning Center during FY 2002-2003. These visitors represent students from the fourth grade and above, pre-law and college students, and community groups from approximately thirty counties in Michigan.

Trained volunteers provide the groups with an interesting educational experience. On January 1, 2003 a "virtual tour" of the Learning Center was added to the Supreme Court website at:

courts.michigan.gov/plc/1sttour/tour1_1.htm

2002 WEB PRESENCE

Webcasting

In the fourth quarter of 2002, the Michigan Supreme Court began webcasting (broadcasting) over the Internet. Court staff throughout Michigan can now view educational seminars at the Hall of Justice Conference Center by connecting to **courts.mi.gov/mji**. Webcast users are able to see and hear the presenter, see the PowerPoint slide show, and “talk” with the presenter through a chat feature. Webcasts can be viewed in real time or later in an archived (recorded) format on the court’s web page.

New website features

- The “One Court of Justice” web page was redesigned to offer a consistent look and clearer organization. The page links to websites for the Michigan Supreme Court, Michigan Court of Appeals, State Court Administrative Office, Michigan Judicial Institute, trial courts, Michigan court rules, and many others. In addition, the web page and most of the linked websites now feature roll-down menus for easier navigation.
- A new web page for the state Board of Law Examiners was added to the Court’s website, providing a valuable resource for anyone who seeks admission to the practice of law in Michigan. Features include information about admission to the bar, Board of Law Examiner rules, and application forms.
- A new feature on the Supreme Court website not only lists cases that are before the Court for oral argument, but provides briefs, case names and docket numbers, and short case summaries. Opinions are posted to the schedule the same day that they are issued.
- A virtual tour of the Hall of Justice Learning Center was added to provide K-12 educators with an overview of the Center and procedures for tour registrations. The tour “walks” visitors to the Hall of Justice and through the many features of the Learning Center, including a “Day in Court” mock trial.
- Over 650 court forms are available in Acrobat Reader format through the State Court Administrative Office website; the forms can be filled in online and printed. In 2002, changes to the forms feature included various updates, as well as a direct link from **courts.michigan.gov** to make the forms more accessible.

COURT TECHNOLOGY

Judicial Network Project

A statewide judicial network would permit courts to submit information electronically to State Police, Secretary of State and other state agencies. For the past two years, the Judicial Network Project has focused on building the communication infrastructure that will link each trial court to the state network. In the past, court conviction data was submitted on paper to state agencies on a weekly basis. The submission method is changing from paper-based to electronic submission, which may take place daily or, in some cases, immediately. The Judiciary's goal is to have all Michigan courts networked and submitting data electronically by the end of 2004.

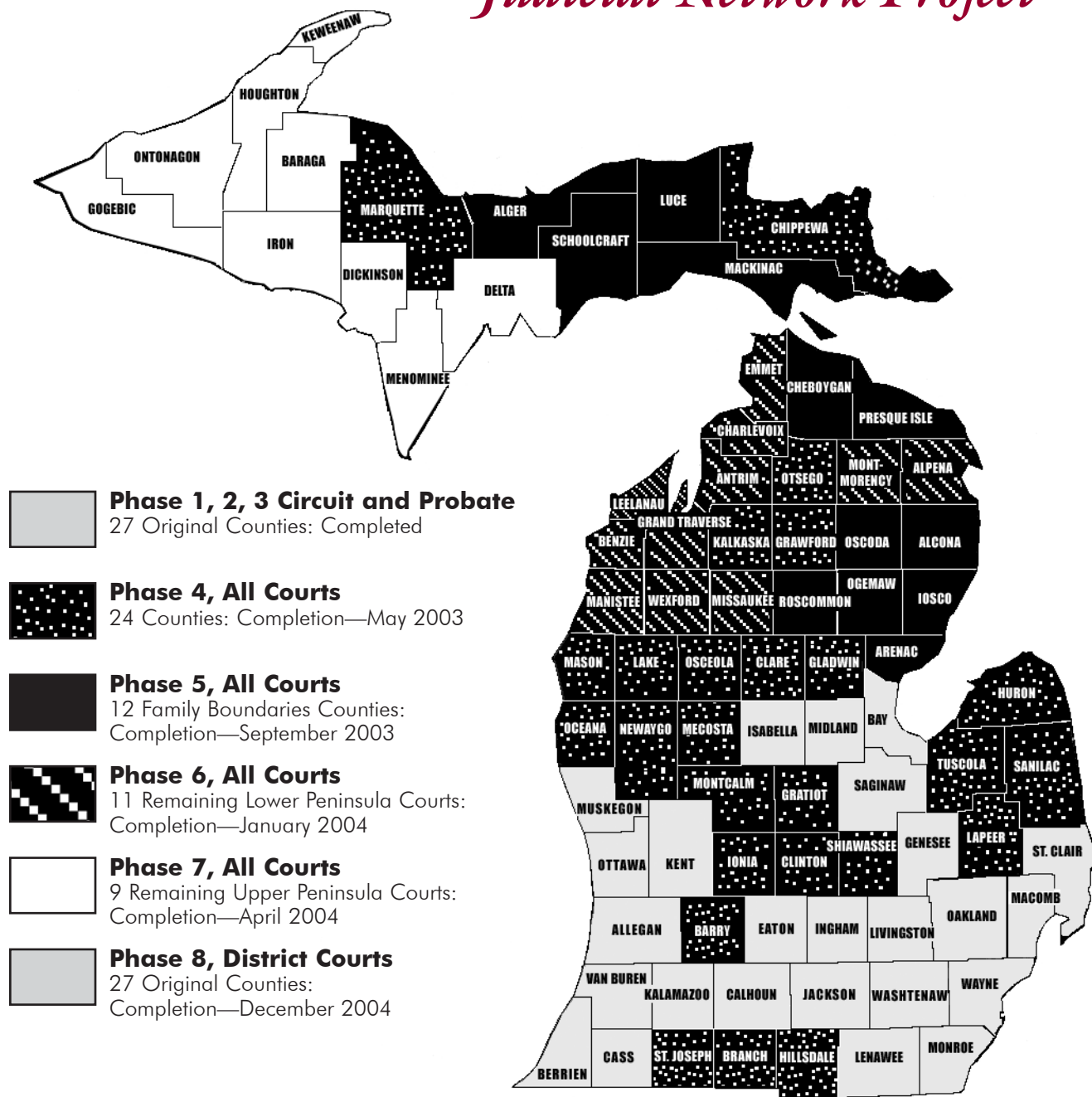
The Judicial Network Project is funded through a combination of Federal Grants and state general funds. Under a sub-grant agreement with the Michigan State Police, the Federal National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP) provides hardware for courts to connect to the State's Local Government Network (LGNet). The grant also provides for software development to automate the submission of adult and juvenile felony dispositions electronically. The Judiciary anticipates expanding the network to include software development, e-commerce and data warehousing.

The Judicial Technology Improvement Fund (JTIF) provides funding for hardware in district courts to connect to LGNet. The JTIF fund also covers the monthly line costs for all courts.

As of December 2002, hardware installation was completed for circuit and probate courts in 27 counties and for district courts in 11 of those counties. (For a complete timetable of the project, please refer to the graphic on page 9.)

The State Court Administrative Office is working with state and local entities to complete the network project. The Judicial Branch is also coordinating this project with other statewide efforts, including the Child Support Enforcement System, the Michigan State Police conversion of LEIN to LGNet, and the Department of Information Technology's consolidation of existing state lines to county offices.

Judicial Network Project



THERAPEUTIC COURTS

Drug treatment courts

Offenders with drug and alcohol addictions frequently cycle in and out of the justice system. Traditionally, courts punish the offender but do not always address the underlying addiction, leaving the way open for future offenses. By contrast, drug courts treat addiction as a complex disease whose victims often relapse. Drug courts have a wide variety of therapeutic options including sustained treatment, interventions, and other services. The drug court goal is to increase a client's period of abstinence and reduce the rate of relapse, rearrest, and incarceration. A specially designed court docket admits nonviolent substance-abusing offenders for intense, judicially-supervised treatment. Offenders undergo mandatory drug testing combined with appropriate sanctions and other rehabilitation services.

There are currently 24 operational drug courts in Michigan; an additional 17 jurisdictions plan to have drug courts. Funding is available from the Supreme Court and from the Michigan Office of Drug Control Policy; courts receive annual grants to plan, implement, or continue operation of a drug court. Currently, funding is provided for adult, juvenile, and alcohol-based drug courts. Each local program must adhere to federal guidelines developed for the *10 Key Components of Drug Courts* by the U.S. Department of Justice.

Family drug courts

Family drug courts are an emerging program within the drug court field. The family drug court's goal is to establish an integrated, court-based collaboration that protects children from abuse and neglect caused by substance abuse. Timely court decisions, coordinated services, treatment, and court-ordered placements are all tools of the family drug court. Several jurisdictions in Michigan are in the process of planning family drug court programs.

Teen courts

Teen courts are increasingly used by family division judges for juveniles who commit minor offenses, status offenses, or are involved with the judicial system as a first-time offender. Typically, a group of peers reviews the case, takes testimony, and recommends an outcome. Some teen courts act as a diversion program, while others use an informal court process or the consent calendar as a method of disposition. With all forms of teen court, the juvenile and the parents must agree to have the case resolved by the teen court process and acknowledge their responsibilities. Currently, 26 teen courts are operating in Michigan.

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION (ADR)

A majority of lawsuits settle prior to trial. Traditionally, a process known as case evaluation can help parties obtain an independent evaluation of their case from a panel of attorneys. Many courts have also used other forms of ADR. The Supreme Court recently amended court rules to provide parties with even greater access to ADR processes, particularly mediation.

In mediation, a neutral third person helps parties identify the issues in and options for resolving their conflict. Parties are able to “tell their stories” in an informal, confidential atmosphere. Instead of being adversaries, as is the case in litigation, parties work collaboratively to find solutions.

Parties may elect to use an ADR process voluntarily. In jurisdictions where ADR plans have been adopted, a judge may order parties to try an ADR process of their choice. Future evaluations will assess both ADR’s impact on court dockets and participants' satisfaction with mediation and other forms of ADR.

MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT ANNUAL REPORT 2002

JUDICIAL ACTIVITY & CASELOAD

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The **Michigan Supreme Court** is Michigan's court of last resort and has final authority over all the courts in the state. In 2002, 2,180 cases were filed with the Supreme Court. Civil cases accounted for 39 percent of the filings and criminal cases accounted for 61 percent. The Court disposed of 2,052 cases. Since 1997, the number of cases pending before the Supreme Court has declined by 44 percent. More detail on the Supreme Court can be found on pages 13 and 14 of this report.
- The **Court of Appeals** is the intermediate appellate court between the trial courts and the Supreme Court. In 2002, 7,156 cases were filed with the Court of Appeals. The Court disposed of 7,647 cases. Of the dispositions 52 percent were by order and 48 percent were by opinion. More information about the Court of Appeals can be found on pages 15 through 17 of this report.
- The **Circuit Court** is the trial court of general jurisdiction in Michigan because of its very broad powers. Circuit courts have original jurisdiction in all civil cases involving more than \$25,000; in all criminal cases where the offense involves a felony or certain serious misdemeanors; and in all family cases and domestic relations cases such as divorce, paternity actions, juvenile proceedings, and adoptions. Additionally, the circuit court hears appeals from other courts and from administrative agencies. In 2002, there were 355,592 cases filed in circuit courts throughout the state. Information on the circuit courts can be found on pages 18 through 29 of this report.
- The **Probate Court** has jurisdiction over cases pertaining to the admission of wills, administration of estates and trusts, guardianships, conservatorships, and the treatment of mentally ill and developmentally disabled persons. In most counties, probate judges have also been assigned to the circuit court in order to help manage the caseload in the circuit court family division. In 2002, there were 72,232 filings with the probate courts. One third of these filings were guardianships and conservatorships, with estates accounting for another 26.4 percent. More information on probate courts can be found on pages 30 through 37 of this report.
- The **District Court** has jurisdiction over all civil litigation up to \$25,000 including small claims, landlord-tenant disputes, and civil infractions; most traffic violations; and a range of criminal cases. In 2002, there were almost 3.3 million cases filed with the district courts. Of this amount, 2.2 million were traffic misdemeanors and civil infractions. More information on district courts can be found on pages 38 through 47 of this report.

MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT

The Supreme Court is Michigan's Court of last resort, consisting of seven justices. Cases come before the Court during a term that starts August 1 and runs through July 31 of the following year. The Court hears oral arguments in Lansing beginning in October of each term. Decisions are released throughout the term.

Supreme Court justices are elected for eight-year terms. Candidates are nominated by political parties and are elected on a nonpartisan ballot. Two justices are elected every two years (one in the eighth year) in the November election. Supreme Court candidates must be qualified electors, licensed to practice law in Michigan, and at the time of election must be under 70 years of age. The justices' salaries are fixed by the State Officers Compensation Commission and paid by the State. Vacancies are filled by appointment of the Governor until the next general election. Every two years, the justices of the Court elect a member of the Court as Chief Justice.

Each year, the Supreme Court receives over 2,000 applications for leave to appeal from litigants. In most cases, the litigants seek review of Michigan Court of Appeals decisions. Each justice is responsible for reviewing every case to determine whether leave to appeal should be granted. The justices are assisted by the Supreme Court Commissioners, the Court's permanent research staff. The Court issues a decision in all cases filed with the Clerk's Office. Cases that are not accepted for oral argument may be decided by an order or an opinion. The Court may affirm or reverse the Michigan Court of Appeals, remand a case to the trial court, or adopt a correct Court of Appeals decision.

Michigan Supreme Court 2002 Bench

CHIEF JUSTICE

Maura D. Corrigan

JUSTICES

Michael F. Cavanagh

Elizabeth A. Weaver

Marilyn Kelly

Clifford W. Taylor

Robert P. Young, Jr.

Stephen J. Markman

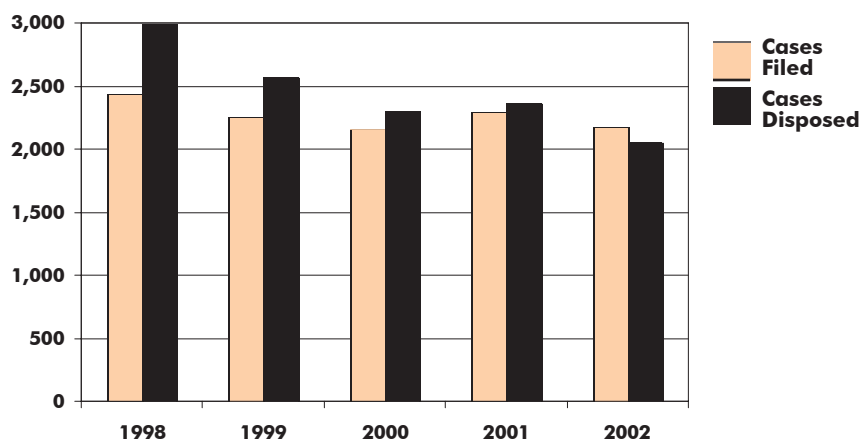


The Supreme Court has discretion to hear cases, and grants leave to appeal in those cases of greatest complexity and public import, where additional briefing and oral argument are essential to reaching a just outcome.

In 2002, 2,180 cases were filed with the Supreme Court. During the year, which saw 10 of 16 Supreme Court Commissioners take advantage of the State's early retirement opportunities, the Court disposed of 2,052 cases. Of the 2,180 new filings, 861 or 39 percent were civil cases (including civil incarcerated) and 1,319 or 61 percent were criminal. As of December 2002, the total number of cases pending was 1,204. This represents a reduction of 958 or 44 percent from 1997.

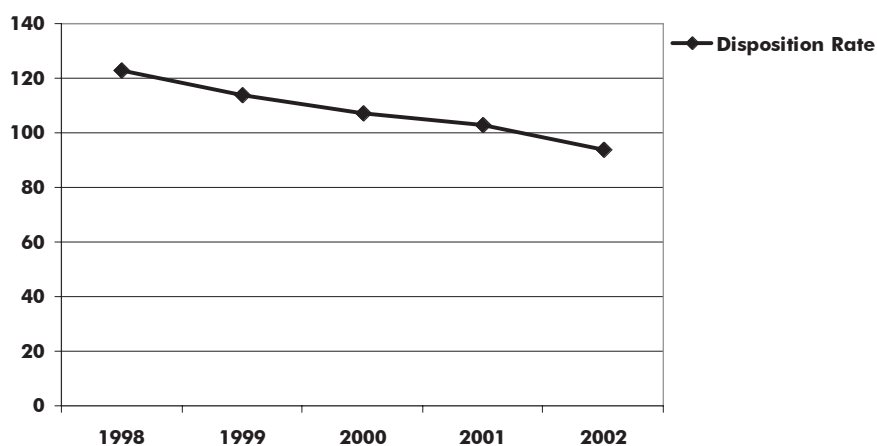
TRENDS IN SUPREME COURT CASES FILED AND DISPOSED

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Cases Filed	2,436	2,246	2,159	2,291	2,180
Cases Disposed	2,992	2,571	2,302	2,359	2,052

**TRENDS IN DISPOSITION RATE**

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Disposition Rate*	123	114	107	103	94

*Cases disposed per 100 new filings



MICHIGAN COURT OF APPEALS

The Court of Appeals is the intermediate appellate court between the trial courts and the Michigan Supreme Court. While the Court of Appeals was created by the 1963 Michigan Constitution, its jurisdiction is established by statute. The practices and procedures of the Court of Appeals are governed by Michigan Court Rules set by the Supreme Court. Court of Appeals judges' salaries are set by the Legislature. The Supreme Court chooses a chief judge for the Court of Appeals every two years.

Court of Appeals judges are elected for six-year terms in nonpartisan elections. A candidate for the Court of Appeals must be a lawyer admitted to practice for at least 5 years, under 70 years of age at the time of election, a qualified elector, and a resident of the district in which the candidate is running.

Judges are elected from four districts, which are drawn by the Legislature along county lines. The districts are as nearly as possible of equal population. The Legislature may change the number of judges and alter the districts in which they are elected by changing state law.

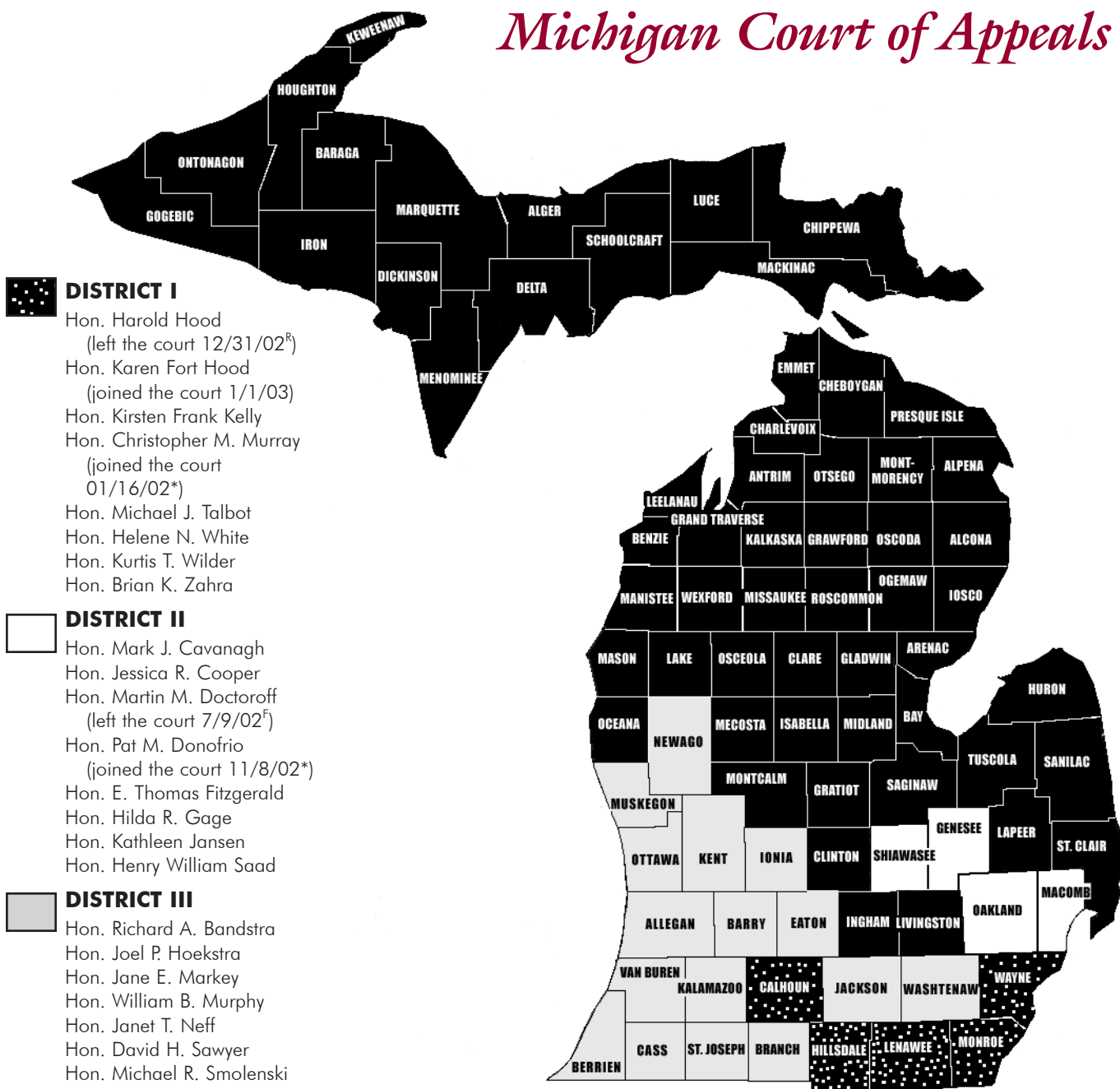
In March of 2002, the districts were realigned: Hillsdale and Calhoun counties were moved from District III to District I, Newaygo, Ionia and Eaton counties were moved from District IV to District III, and Livingston County was moved from District III to District IV.

Panels of three Court of Appeals judges hear cases in Lansing, Detroit, Grand Rapids and Marquette. Panels are rotated geographically so that the judges hear cases in each of the Court's locations.

The Court of Appeals hears both civil and criminal cases. Persons convicted of a criminal offense other than by a guilty plea have an appeal by right under the state constitution.

In 2002, 7,156 cases were filed with the Court of Appeals. This represents an increase of 0.8 percent or 54 cases from 2001. In 2002 the Court of Appeals disposed of 7,647 cases. This represents an increase of 0.5 percent or 41 cases from 2001. Of the 7,647 cases, 4,002 or 52 percent were resolved by order and 3,645 or 48 percent were resolved by opinion.

Michigan Court of Appeals



DISTRICT I

Hon. Harold Hood
(left the court 12/31/02^R)
Hon. Karen Fort Hood
(joined the court 1/1/03)
Hon. Kirsten Frank Kelly
Hon. Christopher M. Murray
(joined the court
01/16/02*)
Hon. Michael J. Talbot
Hon. Helene N. White
Hon. Kurtis T. Wilder
Hon. Brian K. Zahra

DISTRICT II

Hon. Mark J. Cavanagh
Hon. Jessica R. Cooper
Hon. Martin M. Doctoroff
(left the court 7/9/02^F)
Hon. Pat M. Donofrio
(joined the court 11/8/02*)
Hon. E. Thomas Fitzgerald
Hon. Hilda R. Gage
Hon. Kathleen Jansen
Hon. Henry William Saad

DISTRICT III

Hon. Richard A. Bandstra
Hon. Joel P. Hoekstra
Hon. Jane E. Markey
Hon. William B. Murphy
Hon. Janet T. Neff
Hon. David H. Sawyer
Hon. Michael R. Smolenski

DISTRICT IV

Hon. Richard Allen Griffin
Hon. Donald E. Holbrook, Jr.
(left the court 12/31/02^R)
Hon. Gary R. McDonald
(left the court 1/3/03^R)
Hon. Patrick M. Meter
Hon. Peter D. O'Connell
Hon. Donald S. Owens
Hon. Bill Schuette
(joined the court 1/1/03)
Hon. William C. Whitbeck

KEY

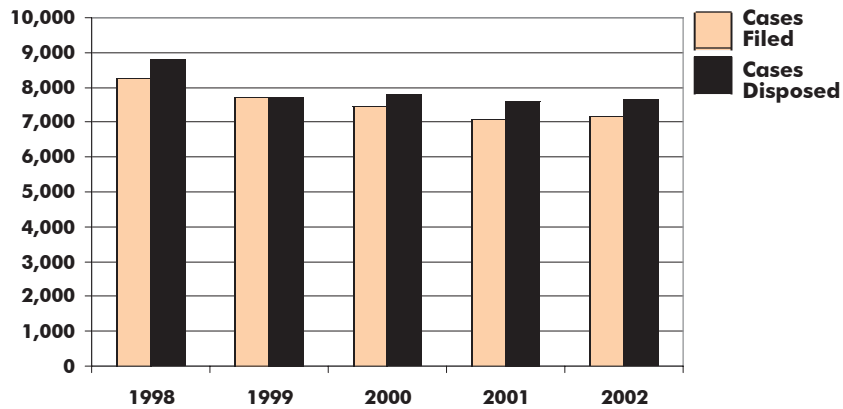
- District I**
- District II**
- District III**
- District IV**

- * Appointed to succeed another judge
- A Appointed to another position
- D Defeated
- E Elected to another court

- F Deceased
- G Grandfathered
- O Mandatory retirement
- R Retired
- S Resigned
- T Term expired

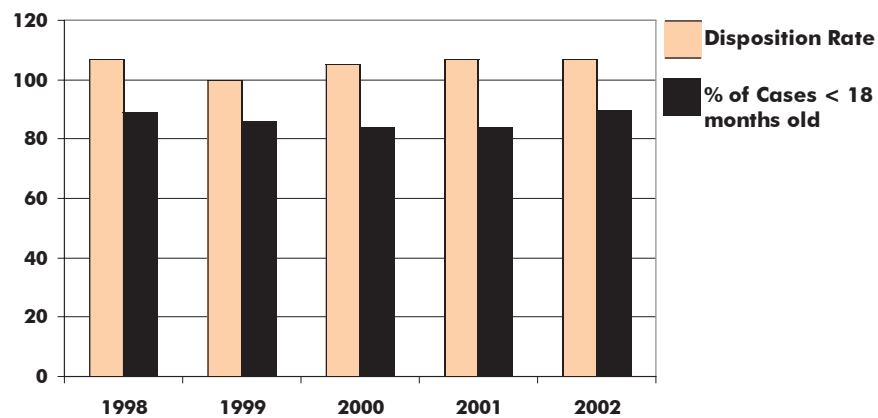
TRENDS IN COURT OF APPEALS CASES FILED AND DISPOSED

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Cases Filed	8,264	7,731	7,460	7,102	7,156
Cases Disposed	8,806	7,715	7,799	7,606	7,647

**TRENDS IN DISPOSITION RATE**

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Disposition Rate*	107	100	105	107	107
% of Cases < 18 months old	89	86	84	84	90

*Cases disposed per 100 new filings



CIRCUIT COURT

The state is divided into judicial circuits along county lines. The number of judges within a circuit is established by the Legislature to accommodate required judicial activity. In multi-county circuits, judges travel from one county to another to hold court sessions.

The circuit court is the trial court of general jurisdiction in Michigan because of its very broad powers. The circuit court has jurisdiction over all actions except those given by state law to another court. The circuit court's original jurisdiction includes criminal cases where the offense involves a felony or certain serious misdemeanors; civil

cases over \$25,000; family division cases; and appeals from other courts and administrative agencies.

In addition, the circuit court has superintending control over courts within the judicial circuit, subject to final superintending control of the Supreme Court.

Circuit judges are elected for terms of six years in nonpartisan elections. A candidate must be a qualified elector, a resident of the judicial circuit, a lawyer admitted to practice for five years and under 70 years of age at the time of election. The Legislature sets salaries for circuit judges.

NEW CASELOAD REPORTING SYSTEM

The State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) has revised the way Michigan trial courts report their caseloads. The creation of the circuit court family division prompted this change; in addition, SCAO sought greater uniformity in reporting among the three trial court jurisdictions. This new reporting system was implemented on January 1, 2002.

Highlights of the New System

Before 2002, circuit court caseloads were reported under a number of broad categories: appeals, civil, criminal, domestic relations, personal protection, juvenile, and other family division cases. Caseload reporting included a few distinctions in types of proceedings within those categories.

By contrast, in 2002, caseloads were reported by individual case type. These individual case types have been combined so that 2002 data may be compared against categories from previous years. The 2002 Circuit Court Statistical Supplement provides additional detailed information.

New case types were added to collect more detail about the types of adoption petitions being filed. The new system also added case types for new kinds of cases created by the Legislature in recent years.

New filings and reopened cases are reported in the same manner as in previous years. However, case disposition reporting has changed. Under the

new system, a case disposition is reported when that case is adjudicated. Formerly, a case disposition was reported only after a final judgment was filed in the case.

Case dispositions for 2002 include cases that become inactive due to circumstances outside the court's control, such as a criminal defendant's failure to appear in court or bankruptcy proceedings that stay a civil case. Such cases do not reappear in caseload statistics until designated events occur. At that point, the case is counted reopened. The current time guidelines criteria for measurement are from case initiation to case adjudication. As a result, the new system provides a more precise pending caseload and an accurate measure of how long cases are before the court and how long it takes to resolve them. Before comparing total 2002 dispositions to numbers for previous years, one must subtract cases disposed of as inactive.

Caseload data for 2002 includes new filings in juvenile delinquency and child protective proceedings. In addition, 2002 juvenile caseload data now includes reopened cases. Reporting in child protective proceedings has also changed. Before 2002, each child associated with a child protective petition was counted as one filing. A single petition could involve more than one child, so the number of filings in prior years appears to be significantly greater than 2002 filings. In 2002, courts reported both the number of petitions filed and the number of children associated with those filings. As a result, it is more difficult to make comparisons between child protective new filings for 2002 and those for prior years. It is possible, however, to arrive at some conclusions about overall trends by analyzing the number of filings, the number of children associated with those filings, and the number of supplemental petitions for termination proceedings. To help assess the overall juvenile delinquency and child protective proceedings caseload, the number of minors in the system in 2002 may be compared against the numbers of minors for previous years. For other case-related information regarding child protective and adoption proceedings, see the 2002 Circuit Court Statistical Supplement.

Finally, the circuit courts provided numbers of personal protection orders actually issued against both adults and minors during 2002, as well as numbers of personal protection orders that were rescinded in 2002.

*Circuit Court Judges (continued)***C04**

Hon. Edward J. Grant
 Hon. John G. McBain Jr.
 (joined the court 1/1/03^E)
 Hon. Charles A. Nelson
 Hon. Alexander C. Perlos
 (left the court 12/31/02^O)
 Hon. Chad C. Schmucker

C05

Hon. James H. Fisher

C06

Hon. James M. Alexander
 Hon. Martha Anderson
 (joined the court 1/1/03^E)
 Hon. Steven N. Andrews
 Hon. Patrick J. Brennan
 Hon. Rae Lee Chabot
 Hon. Alice L. Gilbert
 Hon. Nanci J. Grant
 Hon. Richard D. Kuhn
 Hon. Denise Langford-Morris
 Hon. John James McDonald
 Hon. Fred M. Mester
 Hon. Rudy J. Nichols
 Hon. Colleen A. O'Brien
 Hon. Daniel Patrick O'Brien
 (joined the court 1/1/03^E)
 Hon. Wendy Lynn Potts
 Hon. Gene Schnelz
 Hon. Edward Sosnick
 Hon. Deborah G. Tyner
 Hon. Michael D. Warren Jr.
 (joined the court
 12/27/02*)
 Hon. Joan E. Young

C07

Hon. Duncan M. Beagle
 Hon. Joseph J. Farah
 Hon. Judith A. Fullerton
 Hon. John A. Gadola
 (joined the court 1/1/03^E)
 Hon. Archie L. Hayman
 Hon. Geoffrey L. Neithercut
 Hon. Robert M. Ransom
 Hon. Richard B. Yuille

C08

Hon. David A. Hoort
 Hon. Charles H. Miel

C09

Hon. Stephen D. Gorsalitz
 Hon. J. Richardson Johnson
 Hon. Richard Ryan Lamb
 Hon. Philip D. Schaefer
 Hon. William G. Schma

C10

Hon. Fred L. Borchard
 Hon. Leopold P. Borrello
 Hon. William A. Crane
 Hon. Lynda L. Heathscott
 Hon. Robert L. Kaczmarek

C11

Hon. Charles H. Stark

C12

Hon. Garfield W. Hood

C13

Hon. Thomas G. Power
 Hon. Philip E. Rodgers, Jr.

C14

Hon. James M. Graves, Jr.
 Hon. Timothy G. Hicks
 Hon. William C. Marietti
 Hon. John C. Ruck

C15

Hon. Michael H. Cherry

C16

Hon. James M. Biernat, Sr.
 Hon. Richard L. Caretti
 (joined the court
 11/25/02*)
 Hon. Mary A. Chrzanowski
 Hon. Pat M. Donofrio
 (left the court 11/11/02^A)
 Hon. Diane M. Druzinski
 (joined the court 1/1/03^E)
 Hon. Peter J. Maceroni
 Hon. Donald G. Miller
 Hon. George E. Montgomery
 (left the court 12/31/02^O)
 Hon. Deborah A. Servitto
 Hon. Edward A. Servitto, Jr.
 Hon. Mark S. Switalski
 Hon. Matthew S. Switalski
 (joined the court 1/1/03^E)
 Hon. Antonio P. Viviano
 (joined the court 1/1/03^E)

C17

Hon. George S. Buth
 Hon. Kathleen A. Feeney
 Hon. Donald A. Johnston, III
 Hon. Dennis C. Kolenda
 Hon. Dennis B. Leiber
 Hon. James Robert Redford
 (joined the court 1/1/03^E)
 Hon. H. David Soet
 (left the court 3/1/03^R)
 Hon. Paul J. Sullivan
 Hon. Daniel V. Zemaitis
 (joined the court 1/1/03^E)

C18

Hon. Lawrence M. Bielawski
 Hon. William J. Caprathe
 Hon. Kenneth W. Schmidt

C19

Hon. James M. Batzer

C20

Hon. Calvin L. Bosman
 Hon. Wesley J. Nykamp
 Hon. Edward R. Post

C21

Hon. Paul H. Chamberlain

C22

Hon. Archie Cameron Brown
 Hon. Timothy P. Connors
 Hon. Melinda Morris
 Hon. Donald E. Shelton
 Hon. David S. Swartz

C23

Hon. J. Richard Ernst
 (left the court 12/31/02^R)
 Hon. William F. Myles
 (joined the court 1/1/03^E)

C24

Hon. Donald A. Teeple

C25

Hon. Thomas L. Solka
 Hon. John R. Weber

C26

Hon. John F. Kowalski
 Hon. Joseph P. Swallow

C27

Hon. Anthony A. Monton
 Hon. Terrence R. Thomas

C28

Hon. Charles D. Corwin

C29

Hon. Jeffrey L. Martlew
 Hon. Randy L. Tahvonen

C30

Hon. Laura Baird
 Hon. Thomas Leo Brown
 Hon. William E. Collette
 Hon. James R. Giddings
 Hon. Lawrence M. Glazer
 (left the court 12/31/02^R)
 Hon. Peter D. Houk
 (left the court 12/31/02^R)
 Hon. Janelle A. Lawless
 (joined the court 1/1/03^E)
 Hon. Paula J.M. Manderfield
 Hon. Beverley Renee Nettles-
 Nickerson
 (joined the court 1/1/03^E)

C31

Hon. James P. Adair
 Hon. Peter E. Deegan
 Hon. Daniel J. Kelly

C32

Hon. Roy D. Gotham

C33

Hon. Richard M. Pajtas

C34

Hon. Michael J. Baumgartner
 Hon. Ronald M. Bergeron

C35

Hon. Gerald D. Lostracco

C36

Hon. William C. Buhl
 Hon. Paul E. Hamre

C37

Hon. Allen L. Garbrecht

C37 (continued)

Hon. James C. Kingsley
 Hon. Stephen B. Miller
 Hon. Conrad J. Sindt
C38
 Hon. Joseph A. Costello, Jr.
 Hon. Michael W. LaBeau
 Hon. William F. LaVoy

C39

Hon. Harvey A. Koselka
 Hon. Timothy P. Pickard

C40

Hon. Michael P. Higgins
 Hon. Nick O. Holowka

C41

Hon. Mary Brouillette Barglind
 Hon. Richard J. Celello

C42

Hon. Paul J. Clulo
 Hon. Thomas L. Ludington

C43

Hon. Michael E. Dodge

C44

Hon. Daniel A. Burress
 Hon. Stanley J. Latreille

C45

Hon. James P. Noecker

C46

Hon. Alton T. Davis
 Hon. Dennis F. Murphy

C47

Hon. Stephen T. Davis

C48

Hon. Harry A. Beach
 Hon. George R. Corsiglia

C49

Hon. Lawrence C. Root

C50

Hon. Nicholas J. Lambros

C51

Hon. Richard I. Cooper

C52

Hon. M. Richard Knoblock

C53

Hon. Scott Lee Pavlich

C54

Hon. Patrick Reed Joslyn

C55

Hon. Kurt N. Hansen

C56

Hon. Thomas S. Eveland
 Hon. Calvin E. Osterhaven

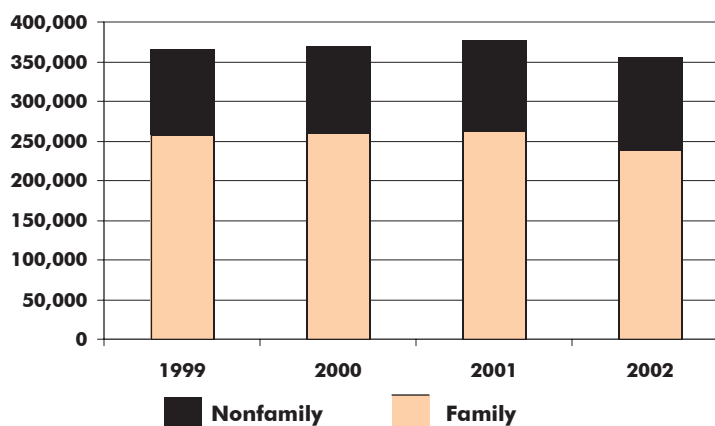
C57

Hon. Charles W. Johnson

In 2002, 355,592 cases were filed in the circuit court. Of that total, 237,651, or 66.8 percent, were family division filings and 117,941, or 33.2 percent, were non-family filings.

TRENDS IN CIRCUIT COURT FILINGS

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Family	257,053	259,821	262,628	237,651
Nonfamily	108,413	109,291	114,193	117,941
Total	365,466	369,112	376,821	355,592

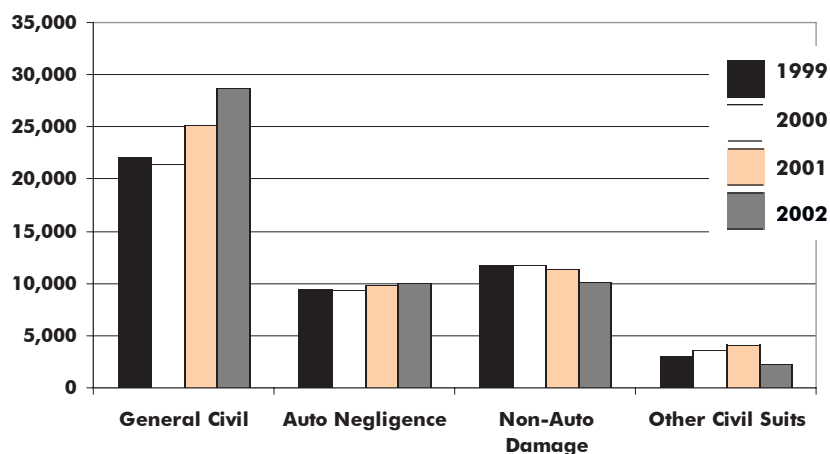


General civil and auto negligence filings have increased steadily over the past few years, while filings in other civil damage cases have slowly decreased. Between 2001 and 2002, civil filings increased by only 1 percent overall. General civil filings increased by 13.6 percent, while auto negligence filings increased by 1 percent during the same time period. Civil damage cases other than auto negligence, however, decreased by 10.6 percent between 2001 and 2002. Filings in other civil suits, such as claim and delivery, supplemental proceedings, and other miscellaneous proceedings, decreased by 45.9 percent.

TRENDS IN CIRCUIT COURT CIVIL CASE FILINGS & DISPOSITIONS

	1999	2000	2001	2002
General Civil	22,015	21,460	25,194	28,628
Auto Negligence	9,495	9,381	9,886	9,998
Non-Auto Damage	11,646	11,703	11,311	10,118
Other Civil Suits	3,039	3,572	4,054	2,191
Total	46,195	46,116	50,445	50,935
Total Dispositions	53,712	49,773	52,774	50,427*

*Less cases disposed as inactive

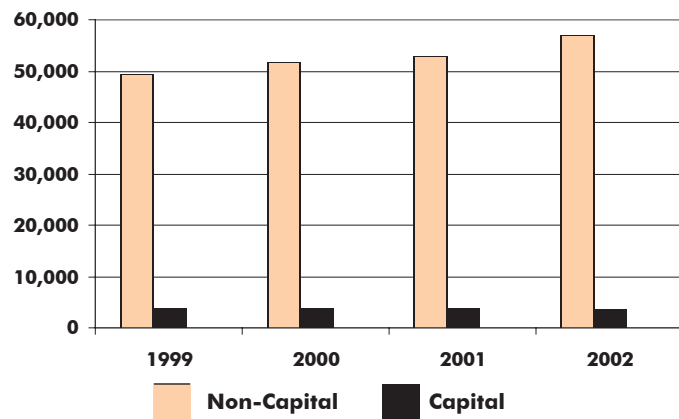


TRENDS IN CIRCUIT COURT CRIMINAL FILINGS & DISPOSITIONS

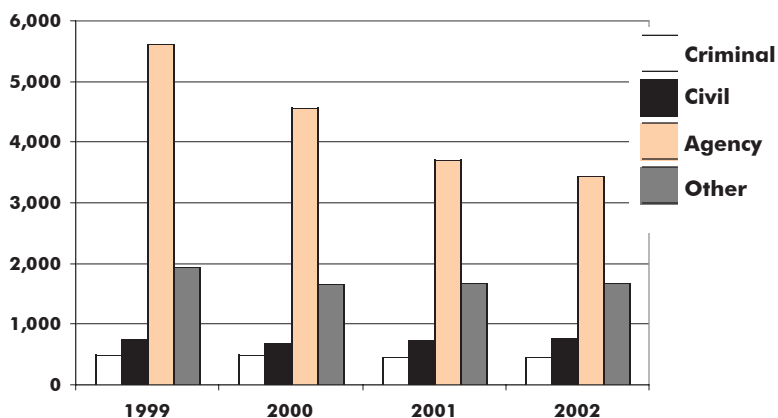
	1999	2000	2001	2002
Non-Capital	49,311	51,686	52,991	56,854
Capital	3,780	3,758	3,907	3,468
Felony Juvenile*	NA	NA	NA	93
Total	53,091	55,444	56,898	60,415
Total Dispositions	62,474	59,499	60,917	62,934**

*A new case type was created for felonies committed by juveniles and waived to the criminal division of the circuit court under MCR 5.950.

**Less cases disposed as inactive

**TRENDS IN CIRCUIT COURT APPEALS FILINGS & DISPOSITIONS**

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Criminal	496	484	454	456
Civil	757	687	723	765
Agency	5,607	4,572	3,701	3,437
Other	1,923	1,657	1,662	1,679
Total	8,783	7,400	6,540	6,337
Total Dispositions	8,916	7,869	6,539	6,174



Total criminal filings increased by 6 percent from 2001 to 2002. Non-capital felony filings increased by 7.3 percent. Capital felony filings declined by 11.2 percent. Juvenile felony cases, which are reported separately for the first time in 2002, represent less than 1 percent of all criminal felony case filings. Extradition and detainer matters are reported with non-capital filings, but numbers for those cases are available separately in the 2002 Circuit Court Statistical Supplement.

Between 1999 and 2002, the total number of criminal appeals decreased by 8 percent. The total number of civil appeals increased by 1 percent. Over the same period, review of administrative agency matters declined by nearly 39 percent. The number of extraordinary writs and writs for superintending control filed with the courts decreased by 12.7 percent.

FAMILY DIVISION OF CIRCUIT COURT

Nearly a quarter of a million cases were filed in the family division of the circuit court in 2002. This number represents two-thirds of all circuit court cases.

In 2002, 91,737 domestic relations were filed in circuit court, a decrease of 7.2% from 2001. The number of filings for divorce without children has remained fairly stable over the past four years. The number of filings for divorce involving children, by contrast, decreased 5.8 percent from 1999 to 2002.

Paternity filings fell by 13.5 percent and family support act filings fell by 18.5 percent between 2001 and 2002. The decrease in paternity filings is probably due to a change in Michigan's Paternity Act. The statutory revision bars an action to determine paternity if the child's father acknowledges paternity under the state's Acknowledgment of Parentage Act.

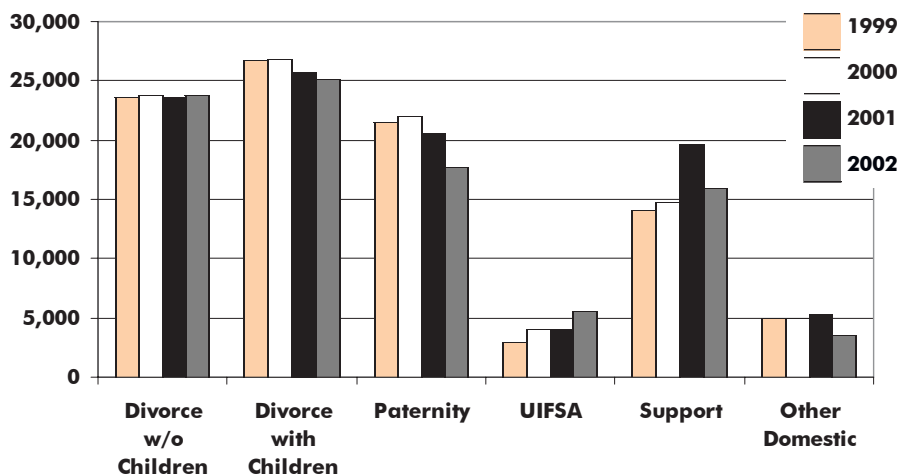
It is not known why fewer support actions are being filed. One factor may be that there are fewer support specialist staff as the result of two early retirements and the centralization of support specialists within the Office of Child Support. Prosecutors rely on the support specialists in bringing support actions.

Other domestic relations matters (which include custody) decreased by 32.7 percent from 2001 to 2002. Interstate and intrastate support filings increased by 87.5 percent between 1999 and 2002, due to statutory changes. That legislation requires that states adopt federally-mandated uniform procedures for interstate support establishment, modification, and enforcement. The filing increase may also be due to the public's increased awareness of these streamlined procedures.

TRENDS IN CIRCUIT COURT DOMESTIC RELATIONS FILINGS & DISPOSITIONS

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Divorce w/o Children	23,663	23,760	23,679	23,760
Divorce with Children	26,716	26,799	25,796	25,172
Paternity	21,493	21,940	20,493	17,725
UIFSA	2,970	4,043	4,072	5,570
Family Support Act	14,114	14,758	19,595	15,971
Other Domestic	4,983	4,903	5,261	3,539
Total	93,939	96,203	98,896	91,737
Total Dispositions	93,061	96,537	100,076	95,885*

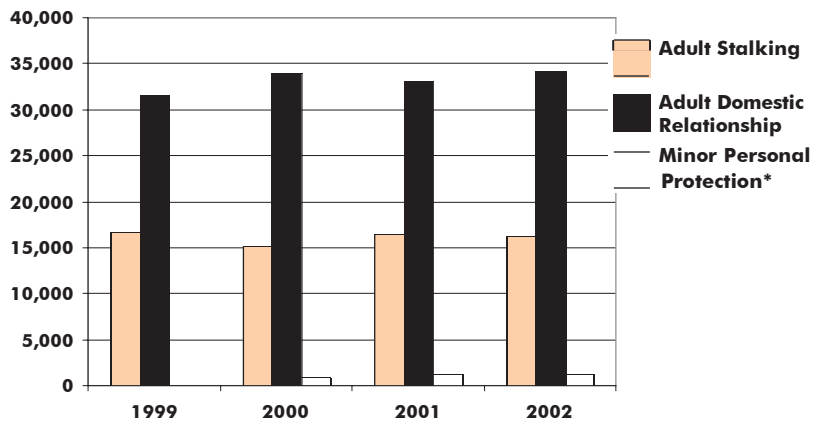
*Less cases disposed as inactive



TRENDS IN CIRCUIT COURT PERSONAL PROTECTION FILINGS & DISPOSITIONS

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adult Stalking	16,660	15,144	16,462	16,287
Adult Domestic Relationship	31,563	33,913	33,123	34,206
Minor Personal Protection*	NA	875	1,279	1,278
Total	48,223	49,932	50,864	51,771
Total Dispositions	47,513	50,100	51,725	53,436

*Minor Personal Protection cases began to be counted separately in 2000.



Trends in Circuit Court Filings in Proceedings Under Juvenile Code

In 2002, there were numerous changes to delinquency and child protective proceedings reporting. Formerly, courts reported the number of children or juveniles associated with the petitions being filed. In delinquency petitions, courts reported one juvenile per petition. However, in child protective proceedings, a single petition was often filed for multiple children. In 2002, courts began to report both the number of petitions filed in child protective proceedings and the number of children associated with those petitions.

Before 2002, new filings in child protective proceedings consisted of each child coming into the system on a new original petition and each supplemental termination petition filed. Some courts received a single supplemental termination petition for multiple children and some received a single supplemental termination petition for each child. Because of this reporting change, it is difficult to compare 2002 data with data from previous years. By using the number of children associated with the new original petitions filed in 2002 rather than the number of petitions filed, a comparison can be made with the new original petitions filed in previous years. For the 8,589 new petitions filed in 2002, 13,443 children were involved, indicating a 7% increase in child protective filings since 2001.

continued on next page

In 2002, circuit courts reported 16,287 new filings for adult personal protection against stalking and 34,206 filings for adult personal protection in domestic relationship situations.

Of the filings for personal protection in domestic situations, 24,720 orders were issued. Of the 16,287 petitions against stalking, 9,054 orders were issued. In addition to petitions filed against adults, there were 1,278 petitions filed seeking personal protection from a minor in domestic relationship situations and stalking. Of these 1,278 petitions, 600 orders for personal protection were issued.

In 2002, the circuit courts rescinded 1,894 personal protection orders against adults and 19 against minors.

Trends in Circuit Court Filings in Proceedings Under Juvenile Code

continued from previous page

In 2002, a total of 707 parents voluntarily released their parental rights before termination of parental rights proceedings concluded.

Filings in 2002 delinquency proceedings showed a decrease of 14.6 percent between 2001 and 2002. Traffic cases decreased 6.5 percent in this same period. The number of designated juvenile cases increased by 45.5 percent from 2001 to 2002.

Of the 2,589 petitions filed requesting termination of parental rights, 911 were filed in the original petition or an amended petition, and 1,678 were filed in supplemental petitions. There were an additional 407 supplemental petitions filed for reasons not associated with termination proceedings.

At the close of 2002, the circuit court had jurisdiction over 22,269 juveniles as a result of delinquency proceedings. Of those juveniles, 18,578 were supervised by the court, 1,940 were supervised by the Family Independence Agency, and 1,751 were supervised by the Department of Community Justice of Wayne County. An additional 8,483 juveniles were still awaiting adjudication.

The circuit court had jurisdiction over 19,024 children as a result of child protective proceedings. Of that number, 11,825 were temporary wards of the court, 6,761 were permanent wards, and 438 were temporary wards who have been ordered to the Michigan Children's Institute for observation. An additional 1,966 children were still awaiting adjudication. Of the 13,443 children who came into the system under a new child protective filing in 2002, 3,840 had previously been under the jurisdiction of the court.

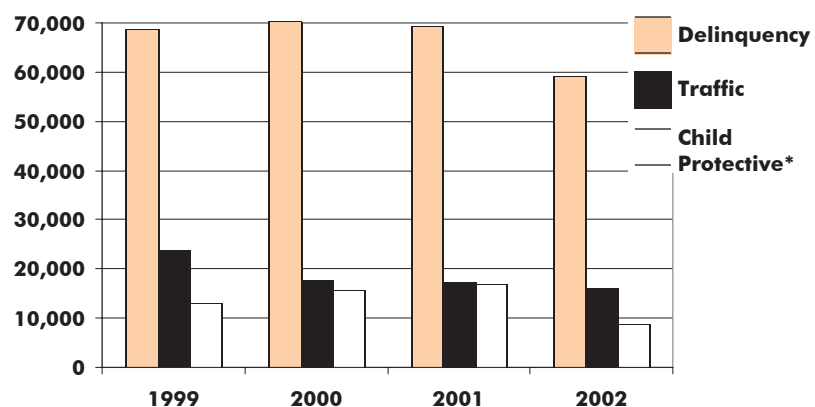
TRENDS IN CIRCUIT COURT FILINGS & DISPOSITIONS IN PROCEEDINGS UNDER JUVENILE CODE

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Delinquency	60,743	61,410	59,910	59,098
Traffic	23,738	17,614	17,127	16,087
Designated Cases	NA	240	180	259
Child Protective	9,529	12,073	12,582	8,589*
Total	93,740	91,337	89,799	84,033
Total Dispositions**	NA	NA	NA	83,775***

*Before 2002, the filings for child protective were based on the number of children associated with the filings. The method for reporting child protective filings changed in 2002. For an accurate comparison, see page 25.

**Dispositions were reported for previous years, but they included supplemental petitions.

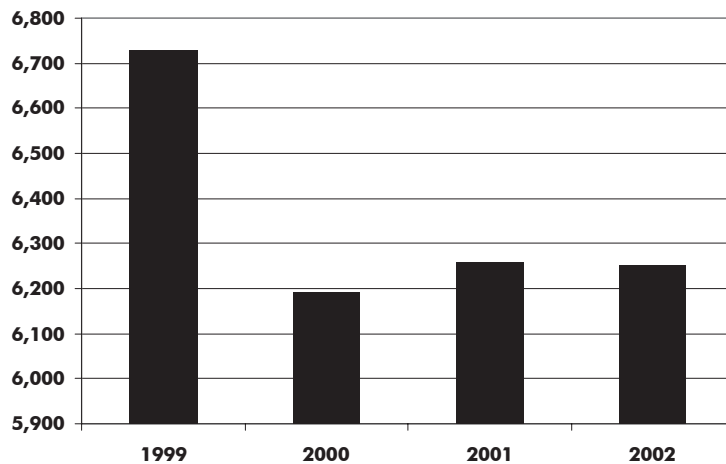
***Less cases disposed of as inactive



TRENDS IN CIRCUIT COURT FILINGS & DISPOSITIONS IN PROCEEDINGS UNDER ADOPTION CODE

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption Filings*	6,729	6,190	6,257	6,251
Dispositions	NA	NA	NA	5,847

*Before 2002, this figure included petitions for adoptions, adoption information, and appointment of confidential intermediary.



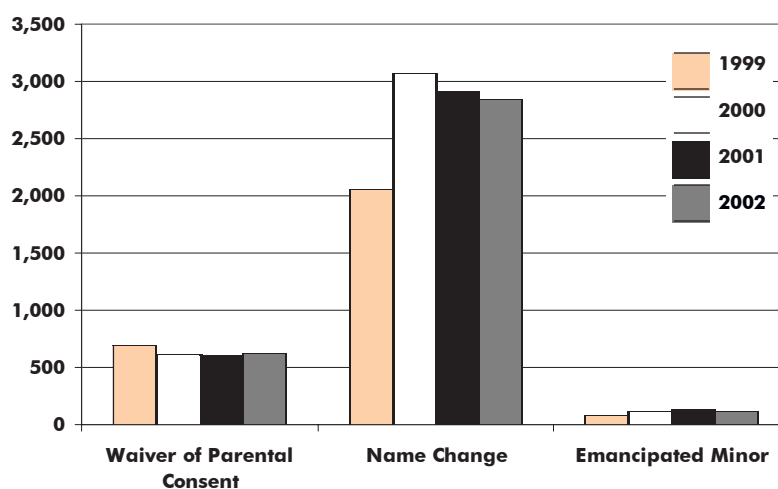
The number of adoption filings reported prior to 2002 includes petitions for adoptions, requests for release of adoption information, and petitions for appointment of a confidential intermediary. In 2002, circuit courts reported these filings separately. In addition, adoption petitions are now reported according to the type of adoption, such as direct adoption, step-parent adoption, agency adoption, etc. For details, please see the 2002 Circuit Court Statistical Supplement.

There were 7,287 filings under the adoption code (6,251 petitions for adoptions, 648 requests for release of adoption information, and 388 petitions for appointment of confidential intermediary), an increase of 16.5 percent from 2001 to 2002. There were 5,456 adoptions finalized in 2002.

The number of other family division filings have remained stable from 1999 to 2002, with the largest difference appearing in name change filings. After a large increase between 1999 and 2000, names change filings have steadily decreased over the past three years, roughly 3.7 percent per year.

TRENDS IN CIRCUIT COURT MISCELLANEOUS FAMILY DIVISION FILINGS & DISPOSITIONS

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Waiver of Parental Consent	691	613	600	628
Name Change	2,058	3,066	2,904	2,838
Emancipated Minor	82	113	138	108
Infectious Disease	1	4	6	9
New Born	NA	NA	NA	1
Out of County Personal Protection Orders	NA	NA	NA	48
Total	2,832	3,796	3,648	3,632
Dispositions	NA	NA	NA	3,283

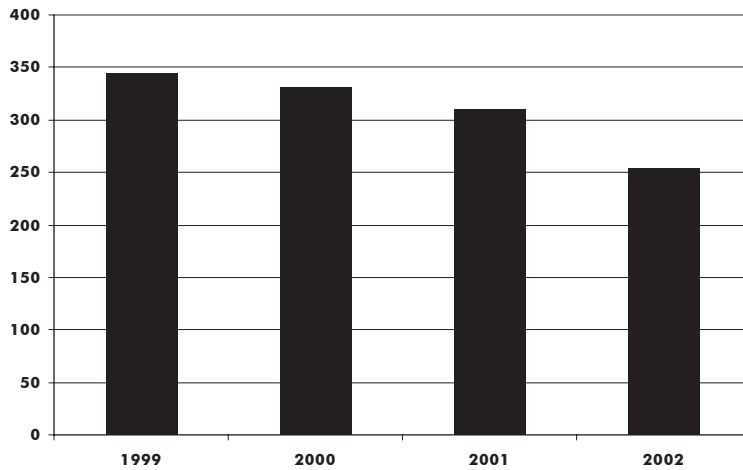


COURT OF CLAIMS

The jurisdiction of the Court of Claims, except as otherwise provided by law, extends over claims and demands against the State of Michigan or any of its departments, commissions, boards, institutions, arms or agencies, except those arising from line-of-duty injuries to state employees. Claimants may sue in the Court of Claims if the claim is for \$1,000 or more. The State Administrative Board is vested with discretionary authority in claims under \$1,000. By statute, the Court of Claims is a function of the 30th Judicial Circuit Court of Ingham County. In 2002, there were 254 Court of Claims filings. The number of filings in the Court of Claims has slowly decreased over the past several years.

TRENDS IN COURT OF CLAIMS FILINGS & DISPOSITIONS

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Court of Claims Filings	344	331	310	254
Total Dispositions	356	378	365	322

**FRIEND OF THE COURT**

The Friend of the Court office was created by statute in 1919. The Friend of the Court has the following duties according to law:

- investigate, report and make recommendations to the court regarding custody, parenting time, and support issues;
- provide mediation as another way of settling disagreements over custody and parenting time of children;
- collect, record, and distribute all support payments ordered by the court;
- enforce all custody, parenting time, and support orders entered by the court.

The Friend of the Court has a statewide caseload in excess of 800,000 and collects more than \$1.4 billion annually in support for Michigan families.

PROBATE COURT

Each Michigan county has a probate court, with the exception of ten counties that have consolidated to form five probate court districts (see map on page 32). Each district has one judge, and each of the remaining counties have one or more judges depending, in large part, on the population and caseload within the county.

The probate court has jurisdiction over admission of wills, administration of estates and

trusts, guardianships, conservatorships, and the treatment of mentally ill and developmentally disabled persons.

Probate judges are elected on a nonpartisan ballot for six-year terms, subject to the same requirements as other judges. The Legislature sets the salary for probate judges.

In most courts, probate judges have been assigned to the circuit court in order to help manage the caseload in the family division.

The State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) has revised the way Michigan trial courts report their caseloads. The creation of the circuit court family division prompted this change; in addition, SCAO sought greater uniformity in reporting among the three trial court jurisdictions. This new reporting system was implemented on January 1, 2002.

Highlights of the New System

Before 2002, probate court caseloads were reported by individual case type. The data collected on cases involving fiduciaries represented the number of fiduciaries, as opposed to the number of petitions filed. Typically, a case will have only one fiduciary, but some have multiple fiduciaries.

In 2002, probate courts continued to report their caseloads by individual case type. These individual case types have been combined into categories much like those in district and circuit court; detailed information is available in the 2002 Probate Court Statistical Supplement. This Supplement contains a summary report and a detail report of the caseload for each probate court. The summary report presents caseload in the broad categories, while the detail report presents the caseload data by each case type code.

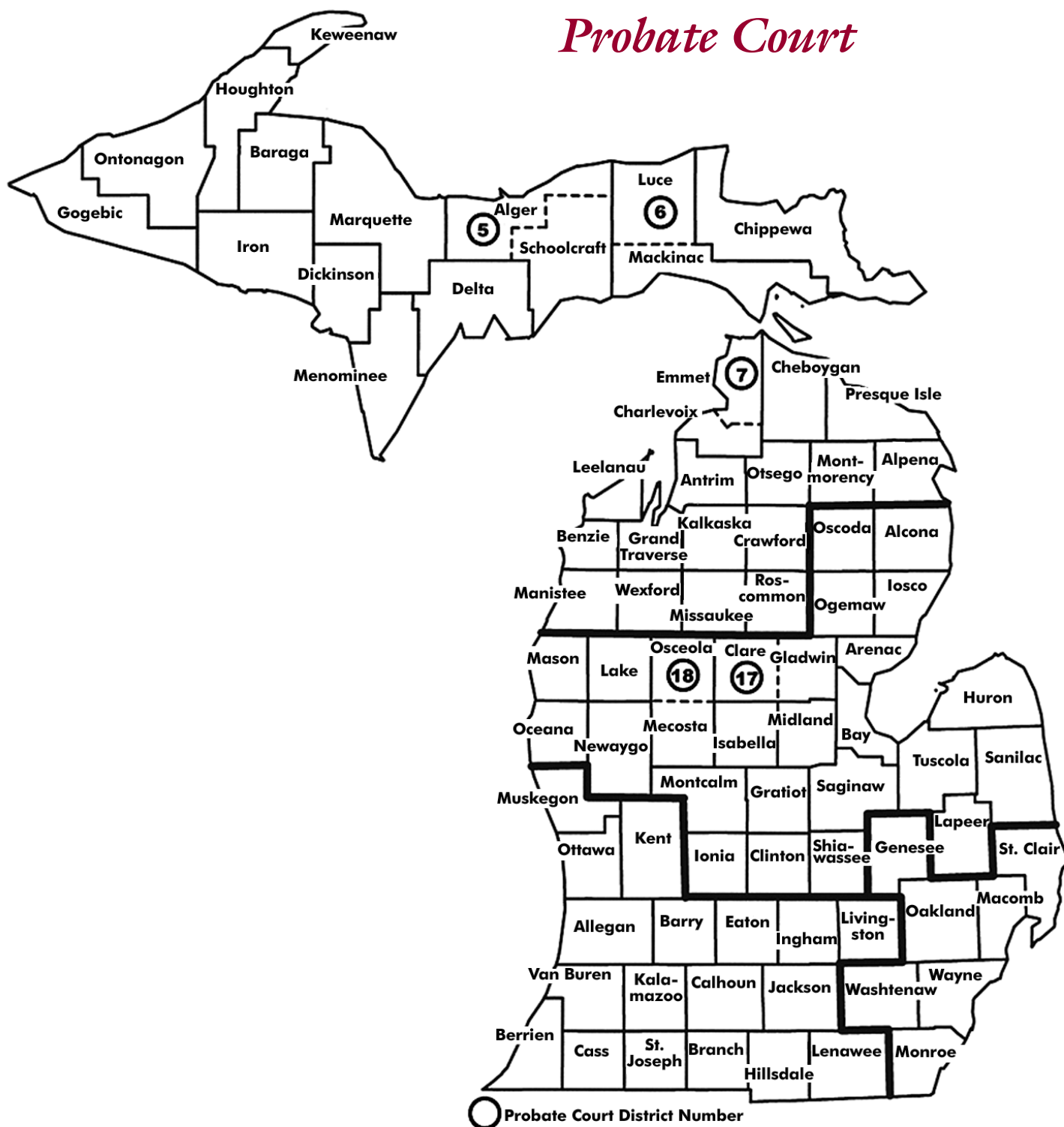
The 2002 data includes more detail about the number of petitions being filed. As a result, the 2002 report provides more information about adult guardianships and conservatorships as compared to minor guardianships and conservatorships and new types of cases that were created by the Estates and Protected Individuals Code (effective April 2000).

Before 2002, probate courts reported only the number of new filings and the number of active cases. Under the 2002 caseload reporting system, probate courts began reporting reopened cases and the dispositions associated with new filings and reopened cases. This change led to greater consistency in reporting among the trial courts. As with circuit and district courts, probate courts now report dispositions in cases that have been adjudicated. In many probate court cases, adjudication occurs relatively early in the life of the case. Once the case is adjudicated, however, it may remain active for years while the court continues to monitor it. Therefore, in addition to reporting filings, the probate courts provide the number of active estate and trust cases and the number of individuals who have a guardian or conservator. These numbers give a more complete picture of the probate courts' total caseload in a given year. Probate courts also reported the number of estate cases for which they provided supervised administration during the year, furnishing additional information about the probate courts' workload.

The reporting changes can make it difficult to compare 2002 data with data for previous years; however, comparing the number of open (active) cases in 2002 with open cases for previous years provides some information about caseload trends. These reporting changes provide a more precise view of case processing by separating the pending caseload from the active caseload.

For details about comparisons of 2002 data with previous years' data, please see the charts that follow.

Probate Court



*Probate Court Judges***P01 Alcona County**

Hon. James H. Cook

PD5 Alger & Schoolcraft Counties

Hon. William W. Carmody

P03 Allegan County

Hon. Michael L. Buck

P04 Alpena County

Hon. Douglas A. Pugh

P05 Antrim County

Hon. Norman R. Hayes

P06 Arenac County

Hon. Jack William Scully

P07 Baraga County

Hon. Timothy S. Brennan

P08 Barry County

Hon. Richard H. Shaw

P09 Bay County

Hon. Karen Tighe

P10 Benzie County

Hon. Nancy A. Kida

P11 Berrien County

Hon. Mabel Johnson Mayfield

P12 Branch County

Hon. Frederick L. Wood

P13 Calhoun County

Hon. Phillip E. Harter

P14 Cass County

Hon. Susan L. Dobrich

PD7 Charlevoix & Emmet Counties

Hon. Frederick R. Mulhauser

P16 Cheboygan County

Hon. Robert John Butts

P17 Chippewa County

Hon. Lowell R. Ulrich

PD17 Clare & Gladwin Counties

Hon. Thomas P. McLaughlin

P19 Clinton County

Hon. Marvin E. Robertson

P20 Crawford County

Hon. John G. Hunter

P21 Delta County

Hon. Robert E. Goebel, Jr.

P22 Dickinson County

Hon. John A. Torreano

P23 Eaton County

Hon. Michael F. Skinner

P25 Genesee County

Hon. Thomas L. Gadola

Hon. Allen J. Nelson

Hon. Bruce A. Newman

(left the court 1/31/02^f)

Hon. Robert E. Weiss

(joined the court

02/11/02*)

P27 Gogebic County

Hon. Joel L. Massie

P28 Grand Traverse County

Hon. David L. Stowe

P29 Gratiot County

Hon. Jack T. Arnold

P30 Hillsdale County

Hon. Albert J. Neukom

(left the court 6/29/02^g)

Hon. Michael E. Nye

(joined the court 7/26/02*)

P31 Houghton County

Hon. John A. Mikkola

P32 Huron County

Hon. David L. Clabuesch

P33 Ingham County

Hon. R. George Economy

Hon. Richard Joseph Garcia

P34 Ionia County

Hon. Gerald J. Supina

P35 Iosco County

Hon. John D. Hamilton

P36 Iron County

Hon. C. Joseph Schwedler

P37 Isabella County

Hon. William T. Ervin

P38 Jackson County

Hon. Susan E. Vandercook

P39 Kalamazoo County

Hon. Patricia N. Conlon

Hon. Donald R. Halstead

Hon. Carolyn H. Williams

P40 Kalkaska County

Hon. Lynne Marie Buday

P41 Kent County

Hon. Nanaruth H. Carpenter

Hon. Patricia D. Gardner

Hon. Janet A. Haynes

Hon. G. Patrick Hillary

P42 Keweenaw County

Hon. James G. Jaaskelainen

P43 Lake County

Hon. Mark S. Wickens

P44 Lapeer County

Hon. Justus C. Scott

P45 Leelanau County

Hon. Joseph E. Deegan

P46 Lenawee County

Hon. Charles W. Jameson

P47 Livingston County

Hon. Susan L. Reck

PD6 Luce & Mackinac Counties

Hon. Thomas B. North

P50 Macomb County

Hon. Kathryn A. George

(joined the court 1/1/03)

P50 Macomb County (cont.)

Hon. James F. Nowicki

(left the court 12/31/02^g)

Hon. Pamela Gilbert

O'Sullivan

Hon. Antonio P. Viviano

(left the court 12/31/02^g)**P51 Manistee County**

Hon. John R. DeVries

P52 Marquette County

Hon. Michael J. Anderegg

P53 Mason County

Hon. Mark D. Raven

PD18 Mecosta & Osceola Counties

Hon. LaVail E. Hull

P55 Menominee County

Hon. William A. Hupy

P56 Midland County

Hon. Dorene S. Allen

P57 Missaukee County

Hon. Charles R. Parsons

P58 Monroe County

Hon. John A. Hohman, Jr.

Hon. Pamela A. Moskwa

P59 Montcalm County

Hon. Edward L. Skinner

P60 Montmorency County

Hon. Robert P.M. Nordstrom

P61 Muskegon County

Hon. Neil G. Mullally

Hon. Gregory Christopher

Pittman

P62 Newaygo County

Hon. Graydon W. Dimkoff

P63 Oakland County

Hon. Barry M. Grant

Hon. Linda S. Hallmark

Hon. Eugene Arthur Moore

Hon. Elizabeth M. Pezzetti

P64 Oceana County

Hon. Walter A. Urick

P65 Ogemaw County

Hon. Eugene I. Turkelson

P66 Ontonagon County

Hon. Joseph D. Zeleznik

P68 Oscoda County

Hon. Kathryn Joan Root

P69 Otsego County

Hon. Michael K. Cooper

P70 Ottawa County

Hon. Mark A. Feyen

P71 Presque Isle County

Hon. Kenneth A. Radzibon

P72 Roscommon County

Hon. Douglas C. Dosson

P73 Saginaw County

Hon. Faye M. Harrison

Hon. Patrick J. McGraw

P74 St. Clair County

Hon. Elwood L. Brown

Hon. John R. Monaghan

P75 St. Joseph County

Hon. Thomas E. Shumaker

P76 Sanilac County

Hon. R. Terry Maltby

P78 Shiawassee County

Hon. James R. Clatterbaugh

P79 Tuscola County

Hon. W. Wallace Kent, Jr.

P80 Van Buren County

Hon. Frank D. Willis

P81 Washtenaw County

Hon. Nancy Cornelia Francis

Hon. John N. Kirkendall

P82 Wayne County

Hon. June E. Blackwell-

Hatcher

Hon. Freddie G. Burton, Jr.

Hon. Patricia B. Campbell

Hon. James E. Lacey

Hon. Milton L. Mack, Jr.

Hon. Cathie B. Maher

Hon. Martin T. Maher

Hon. Frances Pitts

Hon. David J. Szymanski

P83 Wexford County

Hon. Kenneth L. Tacoma

KEY

* Appointed to succeed another judge

A Appointed to another position

D Defeated

E Elected to another court

F Deceased

G Grandfathered

O Mandatory retirement

R Retired

S Resigned

T Term expired

In 1998, the Legislature enacted the Estates and Protected Individuals Code, effective April 1, 2000. This legislation led to a significant decrease in the number of estates requesting supervised administration in 2000, 2001, and 2002, as well as a decrease in the amount of work associated with trusts. Since the law changed, however, the number of estates requesting supervised administration has increased 3.2 percent from 2001 to 2002. The number of petitions for unsupervised administration increased 2.4 percent between 1999 and 2002. The number of testamentary trust petitions and inter vivos trust petitions has remained fairly stable, although there was a slight increase between 2001 and 2002. Small estates (previously referred to as assignment of property) decreased 2.7 percent between 2001 and 2002, continuing a trend of recent years. Filings for determinations of heirs as a proceeding separate from estate administration decreased to 1999 filing levels.

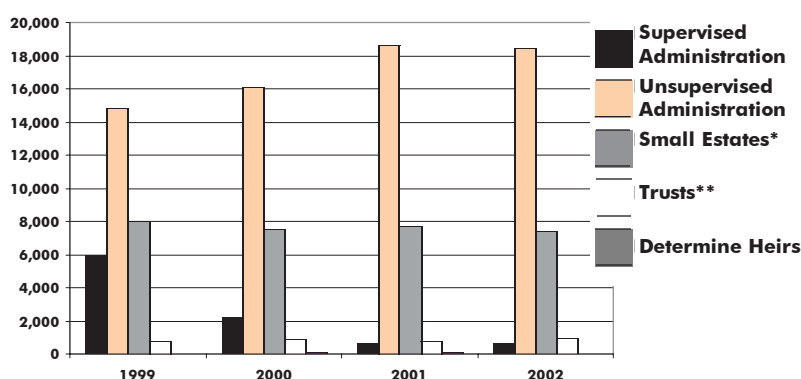
In addition to the new filings, the probate court active pending caseload is used to assess the courts' judicial and administrative workload. Of 38,827 active estates and trusts, 6,721 estates were supervised at some point during 2002; in 665 of these estates, supervision was requested when the case was filed. Probate courts also conducted followup procedures associated with the administration of these open estates.

TRENDS IN PROBATE COURT TRUST AND ESTATE FILINGS & DISPOSITIONS

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Supervised Administration	5,985	2,269	644	665
Unsupervised Administration	14,831	16,453	18,625	18,448
Small Estates*	7,972	7,568	7,656	7,401
Trusts**	747	825	788	920
Determine Heirs	23	50	43	24
Total	29,558	27,165	27,756	27,458
Total Dispositions	NA	NA	NA	27,218

*Before 2001, Small Estates were referred to as Assignment of Property.

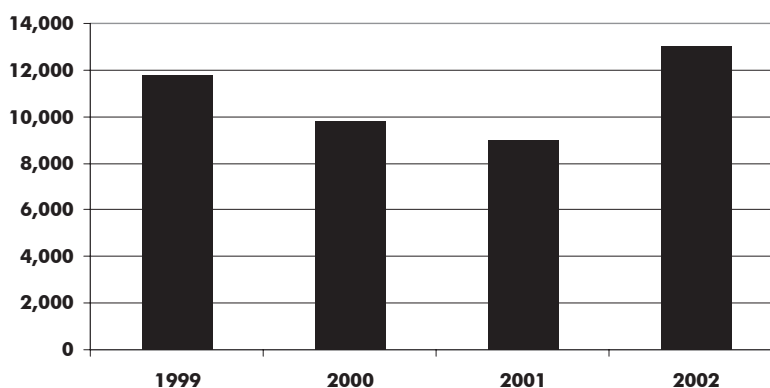
**In 2002, trusts included 750 Trusts Inter Vivos and 159 Trusts Testamentary.



TRENDS IN TRUST REGISTRATION AND WILLS FOR SAFEKEEPING

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Trust Registrations & Wills*	11,781	9,826	8,982	12,970

* In 2002, this includes wills for safekeeping and wills delivered after death of testator.

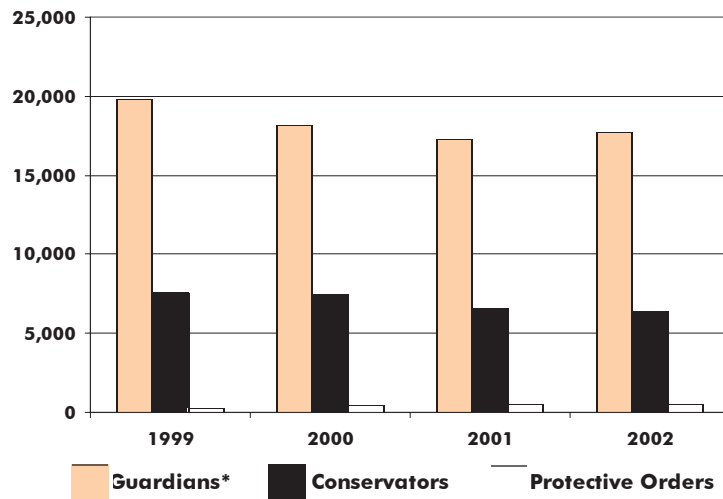


TRENDS IN PROBATE COURT GUARDIANSHIP, CONSERVATORSHIP AND PROTECTIVE PROCEEDINGS FILINGS & DISPOSITIONS

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Guardians*	19,856	18,166	17,301	17,704
Conservators**	7,532	7,492	6,552	6,375
Protective Orders	249	381	478	465
Total	27,637	26,039	24,331	24,544
Total Dispositions	NA	NA	NA	23,258

* Guardians include both adult and minor guardianships.

**Conservators include both adult and minor conservatorships.



In 2002, the courts reported 12,970 wills filed for safekeeping and wills delivered after death of testator and 241 trust registrations.

The number of petitions filed for guardianships and conservatorships has steadily decreased over the past four years. This trend may be due, in part, to recent changes in law and efforts to educate petitioners about alternatives to guardianship and conservatorship. The number of petitions for adult and minor guardianships decreased 10.8 percent between 1999 and 2002, and the number of petitions for adult conservators has declined by 15.4 percent during the same time period. The number of petitions filed for protective orders has been steadily increasing, roughly 28.9 percent each year. Again, this trend may be due to increased awareness of alternatives to conservatorship and guardianship and changes in the law.

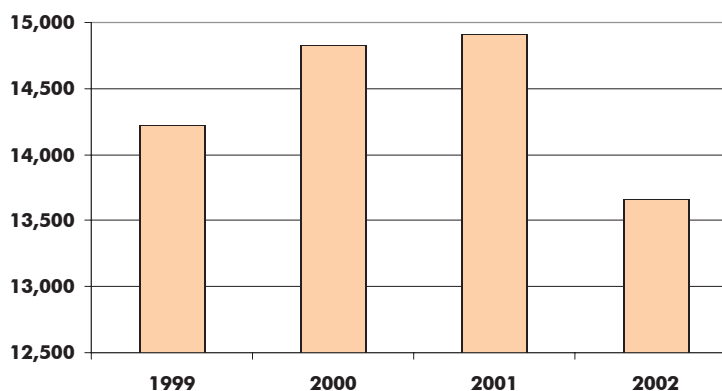
There are 30,768 legally incapacitated adults in Michigan who have a full or limited guardian and 18,448 developmentally disabled persons who have a guardian. There are 32,527 minors who have a full or limited guardian. There are 17,007 adults and 16,641 minors who have conservators. The probate courts are responsible for reviewing these individuals' situations.

Petitions seeking commitment for mental illness decreased by 8.4 percent from the previous year. In addition to new commitment filings in 2002, there were 552 petitions filed for second orders and 1,630 petitions filed for continuing orders of commitment. The total number of supplemental petitions presented to the court for court-ordered examination on an application for hospitalization and the total number of petitions presented to the court for court-ordered transportation of a minor totaled 3,373.

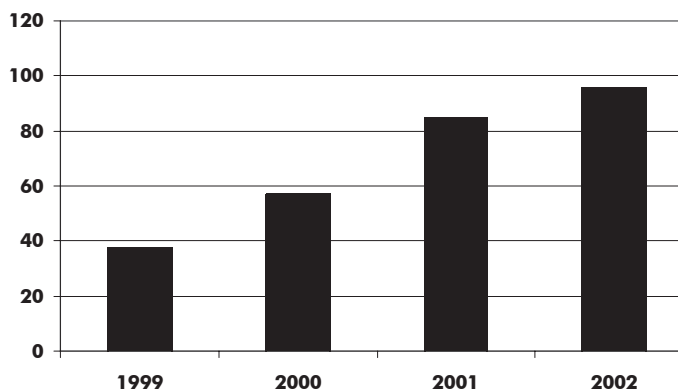
TRENDS IN PROBATE COURT FILINGS & DISPOSITIONS IN MENTAL HEALTH PROCEEDINGS

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Mentally Ill Petitions	14,227	14,819	14,914	13,660
Judicial and Administrative Admissions	38	57	85	96
Total	14,265	14,876	14,999	13,756
Total Dispositions	NA	NA	NA	12,814

Probate Mentally Ill Petitions



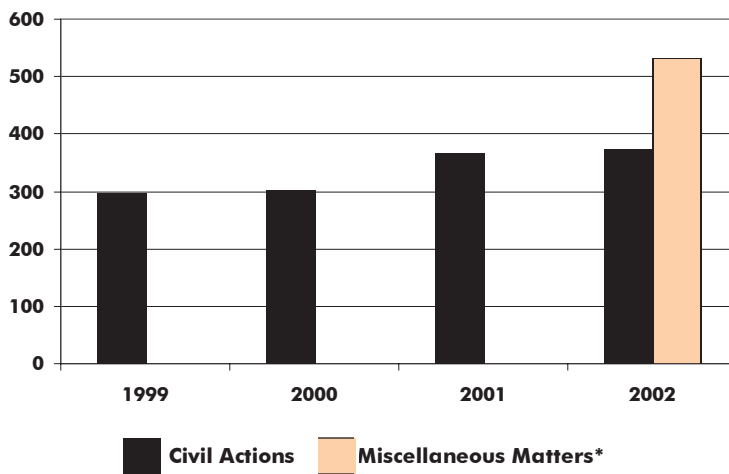
Judicial and Administrative Admissions



TRENDS IN PROBATE CIVIL ACTIONS AND MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS FILINGS & DISPOSITIONS

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Civil Actions	296	302	367	374
Miscellaneous Matters*	0	0	0	533
Total	296	302	367	907
Total Dispositions	NA	NA	NA	860

* Miscellaneous Matters includes among other items, death by accident or disaster; filings of letters by foreign personal representative; kidney transplants; review of drain commissioner, review of mental health financial liability, etc.



Civil actions filed in the probate courts have been on the rise every year since 1999, for a total increase of 26.4 percent. There were 533 filings for miscellaneous matters including petitions seeking judicial decisions regarding death by accident or disaster, kidney transplants, review of drain commission proceedings, review of mental health financial liability, secret marriages, etc. In previous years, some of these matters were not reported or they were reported separately, preventing comparison. In addition, there were 486 motions to establish delayed registration of foreign births, a proceeding under the adoption code that is still under probate court jurisdiction.

DISTRICT COURT

The district court is often referred to as “The People’s Court,” partly because citizens have more contact with the district court than any other court in the state, and also because many citizens go to district court without an attorney. The district court has exclusive jurisdiction over all civil claims up to \$25,000, including small claims, landlord-tenant disputes, land contract disputes, and civil infractions. The court may also conduct marriages in a civil ceremony.

The district court small claims division handles cases up to \$3,000. In these cases, the litigants waive their right to a jury and attorney representation. They also waive rules of evidence, and any right to appeal the district judge’s decision. If either party objects, the case is heard in the general civil division of the court where the parties retain these rights. If a district court attorney magistrate enters the judgment, the case may be appealed to the district judge.

Civil infractions are offenses formerly considered criminal, but decriminalized by statute or local ordinance, with no jail penalty associated with the offense. The most common civil infractions are minor traffic matters, such as speeding, fail to stop or yield, careless driving, and equipment and parking violations. Some other violations in state law or local ordinance may be decriminalized, such as land-use rules enforced by the Department of Natural Resources and blight or junk violations. No jury trial is allowed on a civil infraction, and the burden of proof is by a preponderance of the evidence instead of beyond a reasonable doubt. Most of these cases are handled in an informal hearing before a district court magistrate, although by request or on appeal the case will be heard by a judge.

District courts handle a wide range of criminal proceedings, including misdemeanors where the maximum possible penalty does not exceed one year in jail. In these cases, the court conducts the initial arraignment, setting and acceptance of bail, trial, and sentencing. The district courts also conduct preliminary examinations in felony cases, after which, if the prosecutor provides sufficient proofs, the felony case is transferred to the circuit court for arraignment and trial. Typical district court misdemeanor offenses include driving under the influence of intoxicants, driving on a suspended license, assault, shoplifting, and possession of marijuana. Extradition to another state for a pending criminal charge, coroner inquests, and issuance of search warrants are

also typically handled in district court. The court may appoint an attorney for persons who are likely to go to jail if convicted and who cannot afford legal counsel.

District court judges may allow clerks to accept admissions of responsibility to civil infractions, guilty pleas to certain misdemeanor violations, and payments to satisfy judgments. For little or no cost, clerks have a variety of district court forms for the public. Clerks may not give parties legal advice. Many citizens interact most frequently with clerical staff, particularly on traffic civil infractions when no hearing is requested. Clerical staff are required by law to provide information to various state agencies, such as the Secretary of State on motor vehicle violations and the Department of State Police on criminal convictions.

Most district courts have a probation department to follow up with persons who are on probation for an offense. A judge can order a defendant to fulfill various conditions, including fines, classes, and treatment or counseling. With some exceptions, probation cannot exceed two years.

District judges have statutory authority to appoint a district court magistrate. Magistrates may issue search warrants and arrest warrants when authorized by the county prosecutor or municipal attorney. They may also arraign and set bail, accept guilty pleas to some offenses, and sentence on most traffic, motor carrier, and snowmobile violations, as well as on dog, game, and marine violations. If the district court magistrate is an attorney licensed in Michigan, the magistrate may hear small claims cases. At the direction of the chief judge, the magistrate may also perform other duties as specified in state law.

District judges are elected on a nonpartisan ballot for six-year terms, subject to the same requirements as other judges. The Legislature sets the salary for district judges.

The State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) has revised the way Michigan trial courts report their caseloads. The creation of the circuit court family division prompted this change; in addition, SCAO sought greater uniformity in reporting among the three trial court jurisdictions. This new reporting system was implemented on January 1, 2002.

Highlights of the New System

Beginning in 2002, the State Court Administrative Office made significant changes in the way district courts report caseload statistics. These changes must be understood in comparing 2002 statistics from 2002 with those of previous years.

For district courts, the number of case types reported increased from 13 to 21. These changes allow the courts to distinguish, for example, between non-traffic misdemeanor offenses and civil infractions, between traffic civil infractions and misdemeanors, and between felony traffic and non-traffic offenses. A new case classification for extradition, detainer, and fugitive cases allows these matters to be separately identified. A new civil code allows the courts to differentiate between cases filed with and without a money claim.

Before 2002, the district court caseload was reported under the broad categories of felony, misdemeanor, non-traffic civil infraction, traffic misdemeanors and civil infractions, traffic alcohol offenses, general civil, small claims, summary proceedings, and parking. In 2002, the cases are reported by individual case type. The individual case types have been combined to allow comparison to previous years. Detailed information is available in the 2002 District Court Statistical Supplement. The Supplement contains both a summary report and a detail report of the caseload for each district court. The summary report presents caseload in the broad categories published in previous years' reports while the detail report presents the caseload data by each case type code.

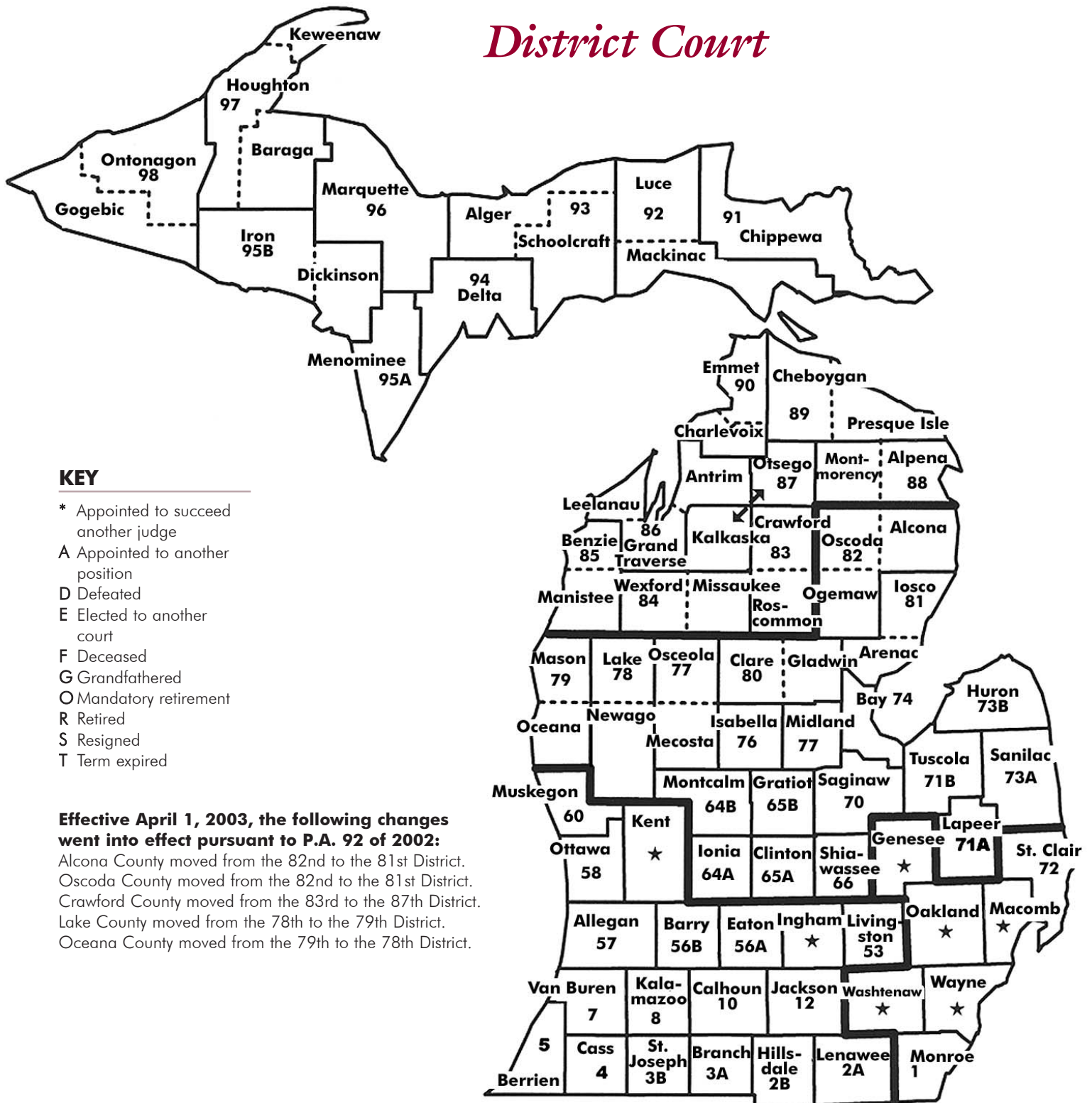
District court statistics for 2002 show a smaller number of pending cases. This number reflects the temporary disposition of cases that become inactive

due to circumstances outside the court's control, as is the case with circuit court reporting. For example, criminal and traffic cases without disposition in warrant status are no longer considered pending. The same is true for civil cases that are stayed by bankruptcy proceedings. Such cases do not reappear in caseload statistics until designated events occur, such as arraignment on the warrant. At that point, the case is counted reopened. The current time guidelines criteria for measurement are from case initiation to case adjudication. As a result, the new system provides a more precise pending caseload, and an accurate measure of how long cases are before the court and how long it takes to resolve them.

Before comparing 2002 dispositions to numbers for previous years, one must subtract cases disposed as inactive.

In 2002, there were 3,241,663 district court filings (less 314,616 parking). This number represents an increase of 7.8 percent over the number of cases filed in 2001.

District Court



KEY

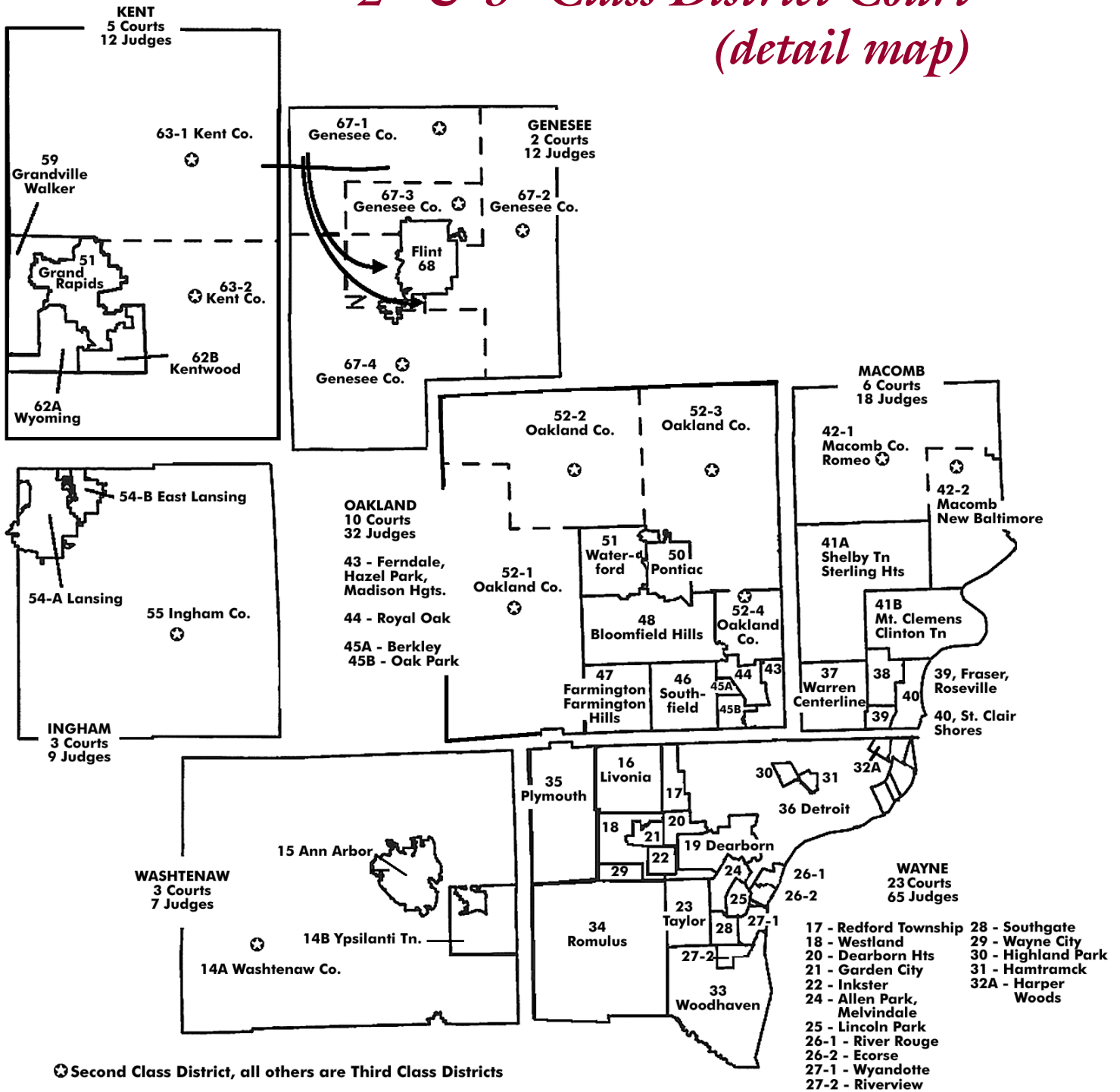
- * Appointed to succeed another judge
- A Appointed to another position
- D Defeated
- E Elected to another court
- F Deceased
- G Grandfathered
- O Mandatory retirement
- R Retired
- S Resigned
- T Term expired

Effective April 1, 2003, the following changes went into effect pursuant to P.A. 92 of 2002:

Alcona County moved from the 82nd to the 81st District.
 Oscoda County moved from the 82nd to the 81st District.
 Crawford County moved from the 83rd to the 87th District.
 Lake County moved from the 78th to the 79th District.
 Oceana County moved from the 79th to the 78th District.

★ See detail map

2nd & 3rd Class District Court (detail map)



*District Court Judges***D01**

Hon. Mark S. Braunlich
(joined the court 1/1/03)
Hon. Paul E. Braunlich
(left the court 12/31/02^R)
Hon. Terrence P. Bronson
Hon. Jack Vitale

D02A

Hon. Natalia M. Koselka
Hon. James E. Sheridan

D02B

Hon. Donald L. Sanderson

D03A

Hon. David T. Coyle

D03B

Hon. William L. McManus
(left the court 12/31/02^O)
Hon. Jeffrey C. Middleton
(joined the court 1/1/03)
Hon. William D. Welty

D04

Hon. Paul E. Deats

D05

Hon. Gary J. Bruce
Hon. Angela Pasula
Hon. Scott Schofield
Hon. Lynda A. Tolen
Hon. Dennis M. Wiley

D07

Hon. Arthur H. Clarke III
(joined the court 1/1/03)
Hon. Ward S. Hamlin, Jr.
(left the court 12/31/02^R)
Hon. Robert T. Hentchel

D08-1

Hon. Quinn E. Benson
Hon. Ann L. Hannon
Hon. Carol A. Husum

D08-2

Hon. Robert C. Kropf

D08-3

Hon. Paul J. Bridenstine
Hon. Richard A. Santoni
Hon. Vincent C. Westra

D10

Hon. Samuel I. Durham, Jr.
Hon. John R. Holmes
Hon. Franklin K. Line, Jr.
Hon. Marvin Ratner

D12

Hon. Charles J. Falahee, Jr.
Hon. Lysle G. Hall
Hon. James M. Justin
Hon. Carlene G. Lefere
(left the court 12/31/02^R)
Hon. R. Darryl Mazur
(joined the court 1/1/03)

D14A

Hon. Richard E. Conlin
Hon. J. Cedric Simpson
Hon. Kirk W. Tabbey

D14B

Hon. John B. Collins

D15

Hon. Julie Creal Goodridge
Hon. Elizabeth Pollard Hines
Hon. Ann E. Mattson

D16

Hon. Robert B. Brzezinski
Hon. Kathleen J. McCann

D17

Hon. Karen Khalil
Hon. Charlotte L. Wirth

D18

Hon. C. Charles Bokos
Hon. Gail McKnight

D19

Hon. William C. Hultgren
Hon. William J. Runco
(left the court 12/31/02^P)
Hon. Virginia A. Sobotka
Hon. Mark W. Somers
(joined the court 1/1/03)

D20

Hon. Leo K. Foran
Hon. Mark J. Plawecki

D21

Hon. Richard L. Hammer, Jr.

D22

Hon. Sylvia A. James

D23

Hon. Geno Salomone
Hon. William J. Sutherland

D24

Hon. John T. Courtright
Hon. Gerard Trudel
(left the court 2/28/03^S)

D25

Hon. David A. Bajorek
Hon. Joseph H. DeLaurentiis

D26-1

Hon. Raymond A. Charron

D26-2

Hon. Michael F. Ciungan

D27-1

Hon. Randy L. Kalmbach

D27-2

Hon. Glenn C. Valasco
(left the court 12/31/02^R)

D28

Hon. James A. Kandrevas

D29

Hon. Carolyn A. Archbold

D30

Hon. William F. Bledsoe
(left the court 12/31/02^O)

Hon. L. Kim Hoagland

D31

Hon. Paul J. Paruk

D32A

Hon. Roger J. La Rose

D33

Hon. James Kurt Kersten
Hon. Michael K. McNally
Hon. Donald L. Swank

D34

Hon. Tina Brooks Green
Hon. Brian A. Oakley
Hon. David M. Parrott
(joined the court 1/1/03)
Hon. William J. Szlinis
(left the court 12/31/02^O)

D35

Hon. Michael J. Gerou
(joined the court 1/1/03)
Hon. Ronald W. Lowe
Hon. John E. MacDonald

D36

Hon. Deborah Ross Adams
Hon. Trudy DunCombe Archer
Hon. Marilyn E. Atkins
Hon. Joseph N. Baltimore
Hon. Nancy McCaughan
Blount

Hon. David Martin Bradfield

Hon. Izetta F. Bright

Hon. Donald Coleman

Hon. Theresa Doss

Hon. Norma Y. Dotson
(left the court 12/31/02^R)

Hon. Nancy A. Farmer

Hon. Ruth Ann Garrett

Hon. Jimmylee Gray

Hon. Beverley J. Hayes-Snipes

(joined the court 1/1/03)

Hon. Paula G. Humphries

Hon. Patricia L. Jefferson

Hon. Vanesa F. Jones-Bradley

Hon. Deborah L. Langston

Hon. Willie G. Lipscomb, Jr.

Hon. Leonia J. Lloyd

Hon. Miriam B. Martin-Clark

Hon. Wade H. McCree

Hon. Donna R. Milhouse

Hon. Marion A. Moore

Hon. Lydia Nance Adams

Hon. Jeanette O'Banner-
Owens

Hon. Maria L. Oxholm
(left the court 3/12/02^A)

Hon. John R. Perry

Hon. Mark A. Randon

Kevin F. Robbins

Hon. David S. Robinson, Jr.

Hon. C. Lorene Royster

Hon. Ted Wallace

D37

Hon. John M. Chmura
Hon. Susan R. Chrzanowski
(left the court 12/31/02^T)

D37 (continued)

Hon. Jennifer Faunce
(joined the court 1/1/03)
Hon. Dawnn M. Gruenburg
Hon. Walter A. Jakubowski, Jr.

D39

Hon. Joseph F. Boedeker
Hon. Peter H. Mytnyk
(left the court 12/31/02^D)
Hon. Marco A. Santia
Hon. Catherine B. Steenland
(joined the court 1/1/03)

D40

Hon. Mark A. Fratarcangeli
Hon. Joseph Craigen Oster

D41A

Hon. Kenneth J. Kosnic
(left the court 1/03/03^R)

Hon. Michael S. Maceroni

Hon. Douglas P. Shepherd

Hon. Stephen S. Sierawski

D41B

Hon. William H. Cannon
Hon. Linda Davis
Hon. John C. Foster

D42-1

Hon. Richard D. McLean
(left the court 12/31/02^O)

Hon. Denis R. LeDuc
(joined the court 1/1/03)

D42-2

Hon. Paul Cassidy

D43

Hon. Keith P. Hunt
Hon. Joseph Longo
Hon. Robert J. Turner

D44

Hon. Terrence H. Brennan
Hon. Daniel Sawicki

D45A

Hon. William R. Sauer

D45B

Hon. Michelle Friedman Appel
(joined the court 1/1/03)

Hon. Marvin F. Frankel
(left the court 12/31/02^O)

Hon. Benjamin J. Friedman
(left the court 12/31/02^O)

Hon. David M. Gubow
(joined the court 1/1/03)

D46

Hon. Stephen C. Cooper
Hon. Sheila R. Johnson
(joined the court 1/1/03^E)

Hon. Bryan Howard Levy
(left the court 12/31/02^D)

Hon. Susan M. Moiseev

D47

Hon. James Brady
(joined the court 1/1/03)

D47 (continued)

Hon. Frederick L. Harris
(left the court 12/31/02[○])
Hon. Marla E. Parker

D48

Hon. Edward Avadenka
Hon. Diane D'Agostini
Hon. Kimberly Small

D50

Hon. Leo Bowman
Hon. Christopher C. Brown
Hon. Preston G. Thomas
Hon. William Waterman

D51

Hon. Kenneth H. Hempstead
(left the court 12/31/02[○])
Hon. Richard D. Kuhn
(joined the court 1/1/03)
Hon. Phyllis C. McMillen

D52-1

Hon. Michael Batchik
Hon. Brian W. MacKenzie
Hon. Dennis N. Powers

D52-2

Hon. Dana Fortinberry
(joined the court 1/1/03)
Hon. Gerald E. McNally
(left the court 12/31/02[○])

D52-3

Hon. Lisa L. Asadoorian
Hon. Nancy Tolwin Carniak
Hon. Julie A. Nicholson

D52-4

Hon. William E. Bolle
Hon. Dennis C. Drury
Hon. Michael A. Martone

D53

Hon. Frank R. Del Vero
Hon. Michael K. Hegarty
Hon. A. John Pikkarainen

D54A

Hon. Louise Alderson
Hon. Patrick F. Cherry
Hon. Frank J. DeLuca
Hon. Charles F. Filice
Hon. Beverley Renee Nettles-
Nickerson
(left the court 12/31/02[○])

D54B

Hon. Richard D. Ball
Hon. David L. Jordon

D55

Hon. Thomas E. Brennan, Jr.
Hon. Pamela J. McCabe

D56A

Hon. Paul F. Berger
Hon. Harvey J. Hoffman

D56B

Hon. Gary R. Holman

D57

Hon. Stephen E. Sheridan
Hon. Gary A. Stewart

D58

Hon. Susan A. Jonas
Hon. Richard J. Kloote
Hon. Bradley S. Knoll
(joined the court 1/1/03)
Hon. Hannes Meyers, Jr.
(left the court 12/31/02[○])
Hon. Kenneth D. Post

D59

Hon. Peter P. Versluis

D60

Hon. Harold F. Closz III
(joined the court 1/1/03)
Hon. Fredric A. Grimm, Jr.
Hon. Michael Jeffrey Nolan
Hon. Richard J. Pasarella
(left the court 12/31/02[○])
Hon. Andrew Wierengo

D61

Hon. Patrick C. Bowler
Hon. David J. Buter
Hon. J. Michael Christensen
Hon. Jeanine Nemesi LaVille
Hon. Ben H. Logan, II
Hon. Donald H. Passenger

D62A

Hon. Jack R. Jelsema
Hon. Steven M. Timmers

D62B

Hon. William G. Kelly

D63-1

Hon. Steven R. Servaas

D63-2

Hon. Sara J. Smolenski

D64A

Hon. Raymond P. Voet

D64B

Hon. Donald R. Hemingsen

D65A

Hon. Richard D. Wells

D65B

Hon. James B. Mackie

D66

Hon. Ward L. Clarkson
Hon. Terrance P. Dignan

D67-1

Hon. David J. Goggins
(joined the court 1/1/03)
Hon. Arthalu Lancaster
(left the court 01/15/02[○])
Hon. Donald G. Rockwell
(joined the court
03/04/02*;
left the court 12/31/02[○])

D67-2

Hon. John L. Conover
Hon. Richard L. Hughes

D67-3

Hon. Larry Stecco

D67-4

Hon. Mark C. McCabe
Hon. Christopher Odette

D68

Hon. Peter Anastor
Hon. William H. Crawford, II
Hon. Herman Marable, Jr.
Hon. Michael D. McAra
Hon. Nathaniel C. Perry, III
Hon. Ramona M. Roberts

D70-1

Hon. Terry L. Clark
Hon. Joseph G. DeFrancesco
(left the court 7/1/02[○])
Hon. M. Randall Jurens
(joined the court 7/22/02)
Hon. M. T. Thompson, Jr.

D70-2

Hon. Christopher S. Boyd
Hon. Darnell Jackson
Hon. Kyle Higgs Tarrant

D71A

Hon. Laura Cheger Barnard
Hon. John T. Connolly

D71B

Hon. Kim David Glaspie

D72

Hon. Richard A. Cooley, Jr.
Hon. John G. Cummings
(left the court 12/31/02[○])

Hon. David C. Nicholson

Hon. Cynthia Siemen Platzer
(joined the court 1/1/03)

D73A

Hon. James A. Marcus

D73B

Hon. Karl E. Kraus

D74

Hon. Craig D. Alston
Hon. Timothy J. Kelly
Hon. Scott J. Newcombe

D75

Hon. John Henry Hart
Hon. Philip M. Van Dam
(joined the court 12/17/02)
Hon. James E. Wilson
(left the court 11/4/03[○])

D76

Hon. William R. Rush

D77

Hon. Susan H. Grant

D78

Hon. H. Kevin Drake

D79

Hon. John R. Carney, Jr.
(left the court 12/31/02[○])
Hon. Peter J. Wadel
(joined the court 1/1/03)

D80

Hon. Gary J. Allen

D81

Hon. Allen C. Yenior

D82

Hon. Richard E. Noble

D83

Hon. Daniel L. Sutton
(joined the court 1/1/03)
Hon. Francis L. Walsh
(left the court 12/31/02[○])

D84

Hon. David A. Hogg

D85

Hon. Brent V. Danielson

D86

Hon. Thomas S. Gilbert

Hon. Michael J. Haley

Hon. Thomas J. Phillips

D87

Hon. Patricia A. Morse

D88

Hon. Theodore O. Johnson

D89

Hon. Harold A. Johnson, Jr.

D90

Hon. Richard W. May

D91

Hon. Michael W. MacDonald

D92

Hon. Steven E. Ford

D93

Hon. Mark E. Luoma
(joined the court 1/1/03)
Hon. Bruce E. Plackowski
(left the court 12/31/02[○])

D94

Hon. Robert J. DeGrand
(left the court 12/31/02[○])

Hon. Glen A. Pearson
(joined the court 1/1/03)

D95A

Hon. Jeffrey G. Barstow

D95B

Hon. Michael J. Kusz

D96

Hon. James M. Collins
(left the court 12/31/02[○])

Hon. Dennis H. Girard

Hon. Roger W. Kangas

(joined the court 1/1/03)

D97

Hon. Phillip L. Kukkonen

D98

Hon. Anders B. Tingstad, Jr.

See legend on page 42.

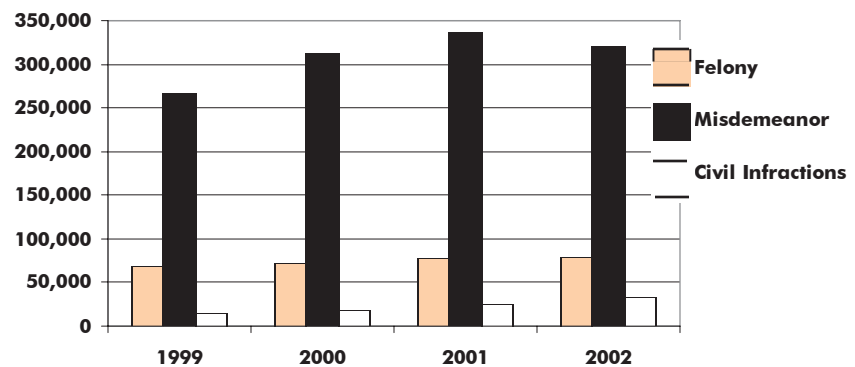
Between 1999 and 2002, non-traffic filings in district courts increased by 23 percent, or by more than 81,000 cases overall. Felony filings (which includes felony traffic filings and extradition/detainer filings) increased by 16 percent, misdemeanor filings increased by 20 percent, and non-traffic civil infractions increased by 111 percent during the same time period. In 2002, there were 209,367 non-traffic cases that became inactive.

The number of traffic cases decreased over the past 4 years. Between 1999 and 2002, misdemeanor and civil infraction traffic cases decreased 9.4 percent. Drunk driving misdemeanors declined by 9.4 percent. However, drunk driving felonies increased by 38.5 percent compared to 1999, although they declined by 17.4 percent from 2000. In 2002, 174,727 traffic cases became inactive.

TRENDS IN DISTRICT COURT NON-TRAFFIC FILINGS & DISPOSITIONS

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Felony	68,327	71,356	76,816	78,772
Misdemeanor	266,245	312,788	336,114	319,721
Civil Infractions	15,300	17,649	24,792	32,428
Total	349,872	401,793	437,722	430,921
Total Dispositions	331,621	377,182	397,353	435,008*

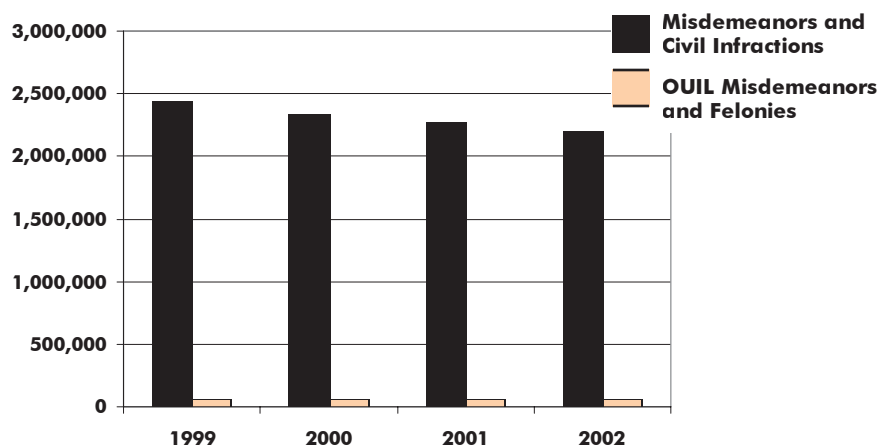
*less cases disposed as inactive



TRENDS IN DISTRICT COURT TRAFFIC FILINGS & DISPOSITIONS

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Misdemeanors and Civil Infractions	2,435,310	2,331,703	2,275,618	2,175,625
OUIL Misdemeanors and Felonies	65,466	63,687	61,369	60,572
Total	2,500,776	2,395,390	2,336,987	2,236,197
Dispositions	2,442,364	2,417,016	2,319,018	2,251,640*

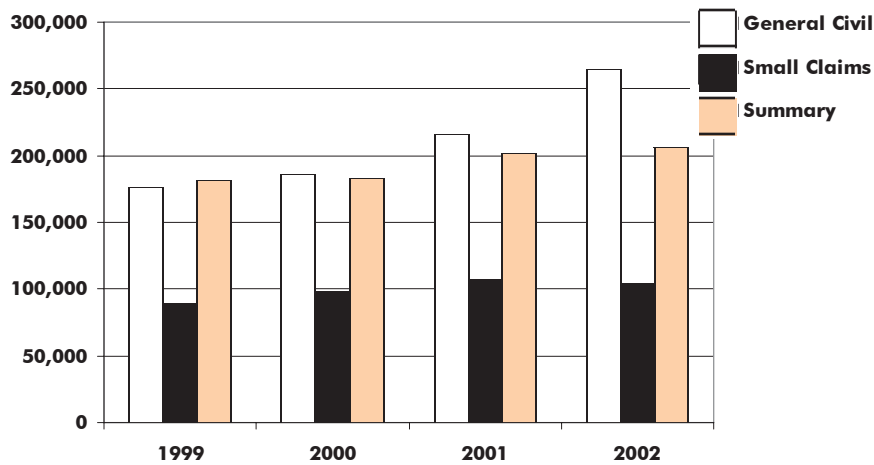
*Less cases disposed as inactive



TRENDS IN DISTRICT COURT CIVIL FILINGS & DISPOSITIONS

	1999	2000	2001	2002
General Civil	176,413	185,710	216,165	264,061
Small Claims	89,842	98,173	106,798	104,208
Summary	181,565	183,480	201,637	206,276
Total	447,820	467,363	524,600	574,545
Total Dispositions	437,078	454,084	514,554	541,792*

*Less cases disposed of as inactive



Between 1999 and 2002, civil filings overall increased by more than 127,000, or 17 percent. General civil cases increased by 49.7 percent, small claims decreased 16 percent, and summary proceedings increased 13.8 percent.

Municipal Court Judges

MEP (Eastpointe)

Hon. Norene S. Redmond
Hon. Martin J. Smith

MGP (Grosse Pointe)

Hon. Russell F. Ethridge

MGPF (Grosse Pointe Farms)

Hon. Matthew R. Rumora

MGPP (Grosse Pointe Park)

Hon. Carl F. Jarboe

MGPW (Grosse Pointe Woods)

Hon. Lynne A. Pierce

Municipal courts use the same case types as district courts. For an explanation of changes in reporting for 2002, see the explanation provided for district court reporting.

In 2002, total filings (less parking of 31,659) were 34,846. This represents an increase of 3,614 cases, or 11.6 percent.

MUNICIPAL COURT

Municipal court jurisdiction is limited to claims of \$1,500 or less in civil cases. As of January 1, 1999, municipal courts have civil jurisdiction in cases of up to \$3,000 if approved by their local funding unit. Criminal traffic jurisdiction is the same as in district court. When the district court was created by statute in 1968, pursuant to the 1963 Michigan Constitution, most municipal courts in the state were converted into district courts. Today, only 5 municipal courts remain: Eastpointe in Macomb County, and Grosse Pointe, Grosse Pointe Park, Grosse Pointe Woods, and Grosse Pointe Farms, all in Wayne County.

Municipal judges must be lawyers, residents and electors of their municipalities. They are paid by the municipalities and are elected for six-year terms.

TRENDS IN MUNICIPAL COURT FILINGS & DISPOSITIONS

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Total	32,537	30,027	31,232	34,846
Total Dispositions	32,032	29,537	31,066	37,012*

*Less cases disposed as inactive

